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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The free trade agreements with Mercosur and with India are crucial for strengthening the EU's trade relations with these key partners.

The EU consistently includes bilateral safeguards in its free trade agreements. These safeguards apply across all goods subject to tariff preferences, designed to counteract potential market distortions. Should there be a sudden increase in imports, particularly in critical sectors like agriculture, these measures are aimed to provide essential protection.

The Commission remains fully committed to ensuring that imported products adhere to high labour and environmental standards. The EU has already in place autonomous legislation applicable to all imports that require compliance with certain production standards to achieve global environmental objectives or address ethical concerns (like the Forced Labour Regulation¹). The Vision for Agriculture² will deepen these efforts, aiming for a strong alignment of production standards for imports to ensure they meet EU requirements.

The Commission will closely monitor market developments closely after the agreements are implemented, particularly regarding the agricultural sector. Besides, the new multiannual financial framework proposal that the Commission put forward in July 2025 includes a 'Unity Safety Net' for crisis measures worth EUR 6.3 billion for 2028-2034, which effectively doubles the current agriculture reserve. If needed, it will allow to respond to market imbalances and stabilise markets, providing support to EU producers of agricultural products affected by agricultural market crises.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202403015.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.