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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU agri-food exports peaked at EUR 235 billion in 2024, up 3% from 2023. Similarly, imports reached EUR 172 billion, an 8% increase compared to 2023¹. Between January and July 2025, EU agri-food exports further rose 2% to EUR 139 billion, while imports increased by 15% to EUR 113 billion². Growth in imports was mainly driven by higher prices for cocoa and coffee, as well as fruits and nuts to a lesser extent, leading to a moderate decline in the EU's agri-food trade balance.

These commodities, along with oilseeds and protein crops, are the most imported agri-food products in the EU. Protein crops are essential for the sustainability of the EU's livestock sector and hence EU food security. In turn, tropical food imports are necessary to meet the demand of EU agri-food manufacturers and consumers for products not produced in the EU or which are in short supply.

In the current complex trade environment, the Commission remains committed to an ambitious trade agenda with a diversified range of partners. 2024 trade data confirms that EU agri-food trade with preferential partners grew at a faster pace (+6.4%) than with non-preferential partners (+2.8%)³, highlighting the importance of EU trade agreements for the competitiveness of the EU agri-food sector by lifting tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Under the Multiannual Financial Framework⁴ post 2027, agriculture will also continue to benefit from Horizon Europe, as well as from the new Competitiveness Fund which will support innovations driving competitiveness.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8e6be7cf-e1d2-48fd-9114-90c448e09643_en?filename=monitoring-agri-food-trade_dec2024_en.pdf.

² https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/documents_en?f%5B0%5D=document_title%3AMonitoring%20EU%20agri-food%20trade%3A%20development.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2569.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.