

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005071/25
to the Commission
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(24 December 2025)**

Subject: Measures envisaged by the Commission to ensure the conclusion of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement

Recent reports indicate that the long-negotiated EU-Mercosur trade agreement has been put on hold following requests by France and Italy to delay its conclusion, citing concerns about its impact on European farmers and the need for the introduction of additional safeguards. This development risks undermining more than 25 years of negotiations and weakening the EU's credibility as a strategic and reliable trade partner. At the same time, representatives of Mercosur countries have publicly warned that continued delays could lead to the abandonment of the agreement altogether.

In the light of the above:

1. What concrete measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the EU-Mercosur trade agreement can be finalised and signed within the projected timeframe, despite the objections raised by certain Member States?
2. Is the Commission considering the introduction of additional safeguard mechanisms, including quotas, transitional periods or emergency measures for sensitive agricultural products, in order to address the specific concerns raised by farmers in France, Italy and other Member States, without undermining the overall economic and strategic value of the agreement?
3. What steps will the Commission take to build broader political support among Member States and to ensure the necessary majority for the conclusion and subsequent ratification of the agreement?

Submitted: 24.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(9 February 2026)**

On 9 January 2026, the Council approved the signature of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement ⁽¹⁾ and Interim Trade Agreement ⁽²⁾ marking a crucial step in concluding this deal. In response to concerns from EU farmers and Member States, both agreements include an array of measures designed to protect sensitive agricultural sectors. These include restrictive import quotas on sensitive products, which will be phased in gradually.

The agreements also feature robust safeguards to counter any unexpected surge in imports that could harm EU producers ⁽³⁾. This is backed by the establishment of the Unity Safety Net for crisis measures, EUR 6.3 billion fund to counter the unlikely event of adverse impacts on EU farmers and agricultural markets.

Further initiatives complement these measures. Reinforced import controls and audits over 2026-2027 will ensure the stringent enforcement of EU health and food safety standards.

Besides, as stated in the EU Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽⁴⁾ the Commission will pursue a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imports, notably on pesticides and animal welfare.

The outcome of the meeting of EU agriculture ministers and the Commission of 7 January 2026 resulted in additional actions including measures to improve availability and affordability of fertilisers.

Following the Council's decision, the EU and Mercosur partners signed the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and Interim Trade Agreement on 17 January 2026.

For the agreements to be officially concluded, the European Parliament must grant its consent. The Commission wishes to stress the agreements' potential to enhance economic cooperation and prosperity in times of geopolitical uncertainty.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12442-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12417-2025-REV-1/en/pdf>.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 639 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0639>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075>.