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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission has performed several analytical assessments prior to the signature of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA)[1] and the Interim Trade Agreement (ITA)[2], which has been provisionally applied since 1 May 2026. These include the Sustainability Impact Assessment[3] and the Economic Analysis of the Negotiated Outcome of the EMPA[4], which evaluate impacts across key sectors, with particular attention to sensitive sectors such as agriculture.

The agreements include provisions to counter corruption and protect the EU market from anti-competitive practices. The EMPA includes provisions to strengthen collaboration on combating corruption through prevention, investigation, prosecution of offenders, and mutual legal assistance.

Under the ITA, all parties are required to adopt and enforce comprehensive competition laws that effectively address anti-competitive behaviour. The Agreement also safeguards EU producers of sensitive agricultural products (e.g., beef and poultry) against sudden import surges through tariff-rate quotas and safeguard measures.

The EU's Foreign Subsidies Regulation[5] provides an additional layer of protection. If a company receives financial contributions from a third country (i.e. a non-Member State) that are on advantageous terms – such as a government grant – this may constitute a foreign subsidy under the Foreign Subsidies Regulation. The Commission is empowered to assess whether such foreign subsidies distort the internal market and, where appropriate, adopt redressive measures to address such distortion.

The Commission currently has no plans to suspend or reassess the ITA. If needed, the Commission can utilise the ITA's robust safeguard clauses and dispute settlement mechanisms.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22026A00186&qid=1772192739535.
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22026A00184&qid=1774426176108.
[3] https://www.lse.ac.uk/business/consulting/assets/documents/SIA-in-Support-of-the-Association-Agreement-Negotiations-between-the-EU-and-Mercosur-Exec-Summary-EN.pdf.
[4] https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6f1a741f-677e-11f0-bf4e-01aa75ed71a1.
[5] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2560/oj/eng.