

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001934/26
to the Commission
Yvan Verougstraete (Renew)
(11 May 2026)**

Subject: Towards an EU framework for minimum mirror measures to ensure fair competition

European producers are subject to particularly strict environmental, health and social standards. Despite this, however, the EU continues to import products made using methods that do not comply with those standards, distorting competition and fuelling a race to the bottom.

In a number of sectors, instruments are already in place or under development, for example with regard to imported deforestation and importer accountability. However, these approaches remain fragmented and mainly focus on the characteristics of the end product.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission plan to bring in a horizontal framework for ‘minimum mirror measures’ that make access to the EU market conditional on compliance with production standards that are equivalent to those applicable in the EU and go beyond criteria that can be measured solely on the basis of the end product?
2. Does it intend, particularly with regard to the agricultural sector, to systematically introduce production method requirements, including those concerning the use of substances that are banned in the EU, animal welfare, traceability or deforestation?
3. Is it exploring the possibility of eventually widening the scope of CE marking to include requirements that are linked to production conditions, in addition to product compliance?

Submitted: 11.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2026)**

The Commission’s 2022 report on the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agri-food products ⁽¹⁾ concluded that, in specific cases and pursuant to a case-by-case assessment, the EU may require imported products to meet certain production standards, in accordance with the EU’s international obligations.

The same principles apply to the agricultural sector. The EU already ensures a high level of consumer health protection by requiring all food placed on the EU market to comply with its health and safety standards.

In some areas, the EU went even further, by introducing production and processing method requirements applicable to imports, such as those relative to antimicrobials, maximum residue levels for pesticides harmful to bees ⁽²⁾, and rules on animal welfare (for example, stunning and slaughter).

The Commission’s Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽³⁾ aims, among others, to better align EU and imported products’ standards, especially on pesticides and animal welfare, while respecting international rules and relying on impact assessments.

The Commission has proposed and is currently assessing the possibility of introducing new measures on pesticides and animal welfare in a manner consistent with the EU’s international obligations.

As regards the question on the possible extension of CE ⁽⁴⁾ marking to cover to production conditions, it is important to stress that CE marking is the manufacturer’s self-declaration under EU product legislation and should not be considered a guarantee of compliance.

⁽¹⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council ‘Application of EU health and Environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products’, COM(2022) 226 final, 3.06.2022: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0226>.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/334 of 2 February 2023 amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for clothianidin and thiamethoxam in or on certain products, OJ L 47, 15.2.2023: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/334/oj>.

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘A Vision for Agriculture and Food Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations’, COM(2025) 75 final, 19.02.2025: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075>.

⁽⁴⁾ Conformité Européenne.

The Commission currently has no plans to broaden the scope of requirements subject to CE marking beyond EU product legislation.
