

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002388/26
to the Commission
Mireia Borrás Pabón (PSE)
(10 June 2026)**

Subject: Ban on imports of Brazilian meat from 3 September 2026

Under EU rules, using antimicrobials for promoting the growth or increasing the yield of livestock is prohibited, as is using antimicrobials reserved for human infections to treat animals.

On 12 May 2026, the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee) voted to ban imports of meat and other products from Brazil as a result of those prohibited substances being used. However, the Commission will allow such products to continue being imported until 3 September 2026.

This is particularly concerning following the provisional entry into force of the EU-Mercosur agreement, which aims to increase agri-food imports.

1. Given that the ban will not apply until 3 September 2026, does the Commission consider there to currently be a risk to the health of EU consumers?
2. What percentage of imports from Mercosur countries are currently being subject to physical and analytical border checks?
3. If serious breaches of the rules have already been detected in the small number of checks currently being carried out, how many non-compliant products does the Commission estimate could be entering the EU undetected?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2026)**

Following extensive discussions with the European Parliament, the Council and all other relevant actors, the Commission has concluded that the date of application of the ban on the use of certain antimicrobial medicinal products in food producing animals and in imported products of animal origin imported does not pose a risk to EU consumers' health.

Physical checks on imported meat varies from 15 to 30%, with reinforced checks for meat from Brazil (from 30 to 100%) ⁽¹⁾. Under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 ⁽²⁾, Member States must test at least 7% of imported bovine consignments for pharmacologically active substances. Each year, the Commission also evaluates third countries' residue control plans, reviews implementation results and regularly audits their control systems.

In line with the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽³⁾, the Commission has increased by 50% the audits to countries exporting to the EU and by 33% ⁽⁴⁾ of border control posts handling products and animals this and next year.

Goods of animal origin from Brazil face the highest rate of border checks: in the past six months, 75% of consignments underwent physical checks and 30% laboratory testing. Since the beginning of 2026, only 1% ⁽⁵⁾ of Brazilian consignments exported to the EU were non-compliant with EU rules for goods of animal origin, in line with the average for other third countries.

The EU system is designed to respond swiftly and effectively whenever a risk emerges.

⁽¹⁾ Frequency of physical checks at EU borders defined in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2129 of 25 November 2019 establishing rules for the uniform application of frequency rates for identity checks and physical checks on certain consignments of animals and goods entering the Union, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/2129/2021-12-26

Bovine meat (not minced): 15% for all countries — 30% for Brazil;

Bovine meat, minced: 30% for all countries — 50% for Brazil;

Bovine meat preparation: 30% for all countries — 100% for Brazil.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1646 of 23 September 2022 on uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls as regards the use of pharmacologically active substances authorised as veterinary medicinal products or as feed additives and of prohibited or unauthorised pharmacologically active substances and residues thereof, on specific content of multi-annual national control plans and specific arrangements for their preparation ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/1646/oj.

⁽³⁾ COM/2025/75 final.

⁽⁴⁾ As announced during the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare implementation dialogue on import controls: https://food.ec.europa.eu/events/implementation-dialogue-import-controls-commissioner-oliver-varhelyi-2025-12-09_en.

⁽⁵⁾ 152 consignments out of a total of 15 197.