

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002488/26
to the Commission
Christine Singer (Renew), Engin Eroglu (Renew), Joachim Streit (Renew)
(17 June 2026)**

Subject: Control and enforcement of EU requirements for imports of animal products from third countries

The Commission has decided to remove Brazil from the list of third countries authorised to export certain animals and products of animal origin to the EU as of 3 September 2026. The decision was made as a result of inadequate guarantees of compliance with certain EU requirements for the production of animal products.

As parliamentarians, we have received numerous questions from the public about whether the agreed EU standards are actually checked and enforced when goods are imported from third countries. The case raises fundamental questions about the effectiveness of import controls and the timing of the measures.

1. For how long has the Commission had evidence or knowledge that Brazil may not fully comply with agreed standards for animals and products of animal origin?
2. Why was authorisation not revoked and corresponding imports not halted sooner?
3. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that future breaches of agreed standards — for example on prohibited substances, traceability and control systems — are detected earlier and prevented more effectively in the case of imports from third countries?

Submitted: 17.6.2026

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

As part of the EU's broader efforts against antimicrobial resistance, a major global public threat, all imports of animals or products of animal origin intended for human consumption must comply with EU rules banning the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion and yield increase, and antimicrobials reserved for human infections.

The detailed provisions on these requirements and date of application were set in 2023, following discussions between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

In accordance with these provisions, the entry conditions related to the requirements on the use of antimicrobials do not apply before 3 September 2026.

This is without prejudice to the obligation for products entering the EU before that date to comply with other applicable EU requirements (e.g. animal health, food hygiene or residue limits).

As announced on 9 December 2025 ⁽¹⁾, several measures have been introduced to maintain EU's highest food safety and public health standards. These include a 50% increase in audits in non-EU countries over the next two years and a 33% increase in audits of EU border control posts.

A taskforce has also been set up to strengthen imports controls, bringing together Member States authorities and Commission's experts. Furthermore, every year the Commission evaluates third countries' residue control plans and regularly audits their implementation.

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

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/nl/ip_25_2979.