

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002943/26  
to the Commission  
Ciaran Mullooly (Renew)  
(15 July 2026)**

*Subject:* Significant increase in beef imports from Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay

The EU has seen a significant increase in beef imports from Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, which together account for more than 70% of all non-EU beef imports into the EU.

1. Will the Commission assess whether these increasing imports are exerting downward pressure on the prices received by Irish and EU beef producers?
2. In the light of the high degree of concentration in the EU beef processing sector, with a small number of large processors operating across several Member States and the UK, will the Commission examine whether processors are using imported beef as a pricing benchmark in negotiations with EU farmers, and whether this affects the functioning of the internal market or raises competition concerns?
3. Has the Commission identified any evidence that the competition, anti-corruption and safeguard provisions cited in its reply to Written Question E-001890/2026 <sup>(1)</sup> have been used, or considered for use, in response to the recent increase in Mercosur beef imports and the resulting decline in Irish and EU beef prices of over 13% (Ireland), and, if not, why?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission  
(25 August 2026)**

The Commission continuously monitors developments in the EU beef market, including imports and producer prices. At present, it has found no compelling evidence that higher beef imports from third countries, including Mercosur, are exerting direct downward pressure on EU beef prices or causing market instability.

In line with Regulation (EU) 2026/687, implementing the bilateral safeguard clauses of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission will submit a monitoring report to the European Parliament and to the Council at least every six months containing its assessment of the impact of imports of sensitive products benefitting from preferential market access under the Agreement. The first one is scheduled before the end of 2026.

The Commission has no evidence showing that beef processors are using imported beef as a pricing benchmark in negotiations with EU farmers. The use by individual processors of imported beef prices as a reference does not, in itself, raise concerns under EU competition law.

However, coordination between processors on the prices paid to EU farmers, or abuse of a dominant purchasing position could infringe EU competition rules.

The Commission, together with the national competition authorities, monitors compliance and would act if such conduct came to its attention.

Competition, anti-corruption or safeguard provisions have not been used in response to the recent increase in Mercosur beef imports.

The Commission is ready to discuss the beef market situation with the relevant stakeholders in the framework of the EU Meat Market Observatory.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-001890-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-001890-ASW_EN.html).  
(<sup>1</sup>) OJ L, 2026/687, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/687/oj>.