

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Trade agreements (FTAs) are carefully designed to open markets for EU exports, diversify supply chains, strengthen partnerships, and improve food-system resilience. The EU agri-food sector is a strong exporter and has benefited from such agreements. EU farmers apply high standards concerning food safety, animal and plant health, animal welfare, and the environment. All imports placed on the EU market must comply with the relevant EU rules, especially sanitary and phytosanitary requirements – with no exception made to FTA partners. Sensitive sectors are protected via the use of tariff-rate quotas, transition periods, safeguards, or other protections.

The Commission regularly carries out impact assessments on trade and agriculture¹. It also monitors markets closely. In the case of Ukraine, it has paid particular attention to impacts on neighbouring Member States and sensitive sectors. As regards the Mercosur and Australia free trade agreements, assessments, stakeholders' inputs and Member States' consultations have informed decisions, with special attention to sensitive farm products.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food² focuses on the global level playing field. The Commission engages globally to promote higher standards, and under the Union domestic framework, the Commission will pursue, in line with international rules, a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably on pesticides and animal welfare.

¹ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/analysis-and-assessment/impact-assessments_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.