

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003616/26
to the Commission
Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE)
(10 September 2026)**

Subject: Absence of an enhanced safeguard mechanism for fishery and aquaculture products under the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement

Regulation (EU) 2026/687 ⁽¹⁾ defines its scope as agricultural products under the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture, which excludes fish and fish products, and no fishery or aquaculture product appears in its list of sensitive products. EU tariffs on Mercosur hake and squid were eliminated as soon as the agreement began to apply, and tariffs on shrimp are being phased out within a few years, none of which are cushioned by a tariff-rate quota.

1. Does the Commission confirm that fishery and aquaculture products fall outside Regulation (EU) 2026/687, and that bilateral safeguards for them are instead governed by Regulation (EU) 2019/287 ⁽²⁾, as amended to cover the EU-Mercosur Agreement?
2. Given that the EU's market observatories for agricultural products do not cover these products, how does the Commission monitor import volumes and prices for Mercosur fishery and aquaculture products, and will it report on them to Parliament?
3. Since Regulation (EU) 2019/287 provides for investigations within six months, extendable by three, and only an annual report to Parliament, without the automatic thresholds available for sensitive agricultural products, does the Commission consider that this gives EU aquaculture producers protection as swift as that provided for producers of sensitive agricultural products?

Submitted: 10.9.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(22 October 2026)**

The fishery and aquaculture sector, given its specificities, is not covered by EU instruments focusing on agriculture. Regulation (EU) 2026/687 ⁽¹⁾ concerns agricultural products, and does not apply to fisheries and aquaculture products.

The Commission has its own market monitoring tools for the EU fishery and aquaculture market. The European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA) enables monitoring of volumes, values and prices of fisheries and aquaculture products, including imports and exports, that allow the Commission to take appropriate policy measures, including in cases of import-driven market distortions. An EUMOFA case study on trade with Mercosur is available in its Monthly Highlights No 2/2025 ⁽²⁾.

EU fisheries and aquaculture production covers only about one-third of EU demand, so the EU is highly dependent on external sources for products like hake, squid and shrimps.

To meet the needs of the processing industry and the market, the EU offers duty-free Autonomous Tariff Quotas (ATQs). A significant share of Mercosur exports, including hake, shrimp and squid, already enters the EU duty-free under this regime. EU processors have expressed strong interest in maintaining or increasing these import opportunities.

As regards aquaculture, neither hake nor squid are farmed in the EU. Although the EU produces a small premium shrimp, the Argentine red shrimp belongs in a different market segment; a wild-caught frozen product.

If, nevertheless, unexpected market distortions arise, the EU has a double safety net: control over ATQs through their future revision cycles and safeguards under Regulation (EU) 2019/287 ⁽³⁾, including provisional measures that can be put in place within a few months.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2026/687 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2026 implementing the bilateral safeguard clauses of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products, (OJ L, 2026/687, 19.3.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/687/oj>).

² Regulation (EU) 2019/287 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 February 2019 implementing bilateral safeguard clauses and other mechanisms allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain trade agreements concluded between the European Union and third countries, (OJ L 53, 22.2.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/287/oj>).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/687/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://fishery-aquaculture-market-observatory.ec.europa.eu/en/publications/monthly-highlights/eumofa-monthly-highlights-no-2-2024>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/287/oj/eng>.