

EN
P-002460/2024
Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2024)

The Commission's Directorate-General Health and Food Safety's audit 2024-8087¹ concluded that controls on residues of pharmacologically active substances in Brazil are overall implemented in line with EU requirements, but that the system to ensure that meat of bovine animals treated with 17beta (17β) oestradiol for therapeutic or zootechnical purposes is not exported to the EU should be improved.

1. The Commission requested Brazil to set up an effective system to verify that bovine animals treated with 17β-oestradiol are excluded from export to the EU. Upon receipt of the audit report, Brazil submitted an action plan and committed to suspend exports of meat from female bovine animals (males are not treated), pending implementation of a system providing the necessary guarantees. The action plan is published along the audit report.
2. There is no evidence that meat of animals treated with 17β-oestradiol has been placed on the EU market. The Commission considers that, once implemented, the actions planned by Brazil will address the weakness identified and will provide guarantees on the non-use of 17β-oestradiol for therapeutic or zootechnical purposes for meat intended to the EU market.
3. The Commission is closely following up on the progress made by Brazil in implementing the action plan and will consider appropriate measure(s) where needed. The Commission also assesses and approves Brazil's annual residue control plans, including for hormones, and the results of implementation of plans in the preceding year. In addition, Member States' veterinary authorities carry out checks of food imported into the EU to assess its compliance with EU food safety rules, including the ban on import of meat from animals treated with hormones.

¹ Food Audits and Analysis, Brazil 2024-8087 <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4804>