

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002536/24
to the Commission
Waldemar Buda (ECR)
(14 November 2024)**

Subject: Negotiations on the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement

Given that the work of negotiating teams for the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement has recently picked up momentum, and reports on the likelihood of an agreement being signed later this year are proliferating, I should like to submit the following questions:

1. Has the Commission assessed the impact of the agreement on the various agricultural sectors in each Member State, and is this assessment available? Both the 2022 Sustainability impact assessment in support of the association agreement negotiations between the European Union and Mercosur, and the study of the cumulative economic impact of upcoming trade agreements on EU agriculture approximate data covering the EU as a whole. What is missing, however, is an assessment of the agreement's impact on the national economies of individual Member States. Without this, it is difficult to verify the arguments raised in the public debate for and against the agreement. If such analyses are indeed lacking, does the Commission plan to prepare such objective analyses without delay, based on the most recent data and the final text of the agreement, and to submit these analyses to the competent authorities of the Member States?
2. Does the Commission intend to present the agreement to the Council as a 'mixed agreement', i.e. one that splits competences between the EU and the Member States, or as an agreement solely between the EU and the Mercosur countries? In other words, does the Commission intend to carve out trade chapters for separate, provisional ratification by the Council and the European Parliament, bypassing the requirement for ratification by national parliaments?

Submitted: 14.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(2 April 2025)**

Sustainability impact assessments (SIAs) are independent assessments produced by external consultants on behalf of the Commission.

These usually analyse the impact of trade agreements on the EU as a whole. Similarly, the Commission is currently analysing the economic impact of the negotiated outcome which is expected to be concluded before the proposal for signature and conclusion is sent by the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament.

Member States are free to carry out their own SIAs based on their perceived exposure to the agreement. For instance, the Irish government requested an independent economic and sustainability impact assessment for Ireland of the EU-Mercosur Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The Belgian government commissioned an independent economic impact assessment for Belgium of the EU-Mercosur Agreement on the impact for Belgian economic sectors ⁽²⁾.

Another study was carried out by Wageningen Economic & Research ⁽³⁾ assessing the impact of the EU-Mercosur Agreement on the Netherlands.

Now that a final political agreement has been reached between the EU and Mercosur, and after completion of the legal verification and translation into all official languages, the Commission will transmit a proposal to the Council and the European Parliament for signature and conclusion of the agreement.

In that context, the Commission will present its proposal for the legal basis and architecture of the deal after an assessment of the outcome of the negotiations.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1c8a6-economic-and-sustainability-impact-assessment-for-ireland-of-the-eu-mercoshur-trade-agreement/>

⁽²⁾ <https://economie.fgov.be/fr/publications/accord-de-libre-echange-entre>

⁽³⁾ Wageningen University & Research — Report 2020-065: Effecten van het EU-Mercosur akkoord op de Nederlandse economie: <https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/effecten-van-het-eu-mercoshur-akkoord-op-de-nederlandse-economie>