

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002758/24
to the Commission
Krzysztof Hetman (PPE)
(4 December 2024)**

Subject: Commission participation in Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) meeting on an EU-Mercosur trade agreement

The framework Agreement on Relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission states that the Commission must give priority to attending plenary sittings or meetings of other Parliamentary bodies to which it has been invited over any other events or invitations. Moreover, according to the same agreement, Parliament must be promptly provided with full information at all stages of the negotiations and at the conclusion of international agreements, including the negotiating guidelines that have been determined. The Commission shall act in a manner to give full effect to its obligations pursuant to Article 218 TFEU, while respecting each institution's role in accordance with Article 13(2) TEU. In view of these provisions, one cannot help but be surprised by the conduct of the Commission, which initially refused to participate in a meeting of Parliament's INTA Committee devoted to the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, and although it subsequently took part in the meeting, it nonetheless refused to answer MEPs' questions.

In light of the above:

1. Why did the Commission opt not to answer questions from MEPs in the INTA Committee?
2. How does the Commission intend to meet the obligation set forth in the framework Agreement on Relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission to provide information to Parliament on international agreements and negotiations?
3. Does the Commission intend to introduce better standards to meet these obligations in the future?

Submitted: 4.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(27 February 2025)**

The Commission briefed the Honourable Members of the International Trade Committee (INTA) on the state of play of EU-Mercosur negotiations as it regularly does any time it is invited to participate in such meetings. The modalities of such participation fall under the remit of the INTA Secretariat.

Transparency towards the European Parliament is and will remain a priority for the Commission, notably as regards the Mercosur Agreement.

In the past legislature (2019-2024), the Commission informed the European Parliament on these negotiations on a regular and frequent basis, namely at 14 monitoring groups and two technical briefings and provided the state of play in 10 committees or delegation meetings other than INTA.

The Commission also held at least 40 bilateral meetings with individual Members of the European Parliament or with political groups.
