

EN

P-003045/2024

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.3.2025)

As pointed in P-002460/24¹, further to the audit 2024-8087², Brazil committed to suspend exports of meat from female bovine animals pending the implementation of additional guarantees to ensure that beef for export to the EU comes only from animals that were not treated with oestradiol 17beta (17β). The Commission is monitoring the progress made by Brazil in implementing these guarantees. Recently, Brazil's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock reaffirmed their commitment to comply with these requirements.

1. All food on the EU market, whether domestic or imported, must comply with EU food safety rules. These are not negotiable, even when trade agreements are concluded with third countries, including the EU-Mercosur.

Beef from Brazil, like all imported meat, is subject to sanitary checks in the EU and there is no evidence that meat of animals treated with 17β has at any stage been placed on the EU market.

2. Third countries wishing to export food to the EU must establish control systems to ensure compliance with EU food safety rules. Brazil's system concerning different food products intended for export to the EU has been regularly audited by the Commission to check its fitness for this purpose. When audits resulted in recommendations, these were followed up by the Commission. Reports of audits, together with action plans from Brazil, are publicly available³.

In addition, the Commission works closely with Member States' veterinary authorities that perform controls on food imported into the EU. Where warranted, the Commission takes necessary measures in agreement with Member States. The Commission considers that checks on imported food ensure a satisfactory level of health risk prevention, including for food imported from Mercosur countries.

¹ Answer for question P-002460/24 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2024-002460-ASW_EN.html

² Food Audits and Analysis, Brazil 2024-8087 <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4804>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report>