

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000060/25
to the Commission
Marlena Maląg (ECR)
(9 January 2025)**

Subject: Consequences of the conclusion of negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement

Negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement were concluded on 6 December 2024. In Poland, as well as in other countries with major agricultural sectors, this development raises significant concerns about increased imports of cheaper products, as well as lower food protection standards. European farmers are contending with excessively stringent requirements imposed by the Green Deal, while Poland is also facing increased imports of agricultural goods from Ukraine. Polish farmers are also also concerned about the ‘destruction of Polish forests and the hunting sector’, as well as potential damage to the Polish economy. All these factors are fuelling numerous protests and giving rise to a desire to block the ratification of the agreement with Mercosur.

In this context:

1. Will the Commission provide compensatory measures for farmers, in particular for farmers from countries with major agricultural sectors?
2. Will the Commission provide protective measures for European farmers?

Submitted: 9.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(14 February 2025)**

For EU sensitive agricultural sectors, the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement sets clear limits as regards providing preferential access to the EU market for beef, poultry and sugar.

For these sectors, trade preferences granted under the agreement are limited through tariff quotas representing only a small fraction of EU consumption.

For instance, the EU quota for beef of 99 000 tons with an inbound reduced tariff rate of 7.5% phased in gradually over five years accounts for about 1.6% of the current EU beef consumption.

On the other hand, the agreement offers a variety of export opportunities for EU farmers thanks to reduced tariffs in Mercosur countries for several EU agri-food products (e.g. wines, spirits, confectionary, dairy and olive oil), as well as the protection of EU Geographical Indications in a market of 280 million consumers.

Furthermore, the agreement contains bilateral safeguards that can be triggered to protect a specific agricultural sector and it has the significant advantage to also covering products not fully liberalised under the Free Trade Agreement.

This would protect our farmers in case increased imports from Mercosur cause, or threaten to cause, serious injury to the relevant EU sectors.

The Commission will monitor agricultural market developments closely after the agreement is implemented. For the unlikely event that the agricultural market situation in the EU is negatively impacted following the implementation of the agreement, the Commission intend to set up a reserve worth at least EUR one billion under the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

This provides an additional safety net and insurance for the sector.
