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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(23.2.2026)

The Commission fully adheres to the rules and procedures set out in the EU Treaties.

The Commission has engaged constructively with both the Council and the European Parliament throughout the negotiation process, intent on ensuring all voices are heard and respected in accordance with the Treaties. It is a prerogative of the Council Presidency to decide on the timing and form of documents for approval of the Council, and the Commission has made no recommendations in this respect.

The EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement (ITA) provides for a possibility of provisional application in its Article 23.3. Article 218(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union foresees a possibility for the Council to adopt, alongside the decision authorising the signing, a decision authorising the provisional application of international agreements before their entry into force. The corresponding Council decision on signature and provisional application of the ITA was adopted on 9 January 2026. The provisional application does not negate the essential role of Parliament in the ratification process, and the ITA can only be concluded and enter into force following the Parliament's consent.

The Commission remains committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the Treaties. It will continue to engage actively with Members of the European Parliament to assist the Parliament to perform its essential role during the ratification process.