

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000417/26
to the Commission
Ciaran Mullooly (Renew)
(2 February 2026)**

Subject: Contaminated beef imported from Brazil to the EU

Following confirmation by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland that beef contaminated with the banned hormone estradiol entered the EU food chain from Brazil, serious concerns are raised regarding the enforcement, traceability and equal application of EU food safety law.

1. Could the Commission clarify the identity of the farmer(s), herd number(s) and the name and EU approval/licence number of the meat processing plant responsible for processing and exporting the contaminated meat, and could it clarify whether such information would be withheld if an equivalent breach had occurred within the EU?
2. Has the processing plant concerned been immediately suspended or removed from the list of authorised exporters to the EU, and if not, how does the Commission justify its continued access to the EU market, given that EU processors would face immediate suspension for a comparable breach?
3. Why was no Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed notification or recall issued before the meat entered the EU food chain and was consumed, and what concrete corrective actions will be taken to ensure that EU food safety law is enforced equally and without exception for exporters from non-EU countries?

Submitted: 2.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 April 2026)**

EU food safety standards apply to all products placed on the EU market, regardless of their origin and regardless of the existence of a free trade agreement with the trade partner.

The Commission is dedicated to strictly enforcing these standards to ensure that imported food meets EU requirements. In accordance with the communication on ‘A Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽¹⁾’, the Commission will notably increase the number of audits in third countries by 50% and works closely with the Member States to further strengthen border controls.

During a recent Commission audit in Brazil, the Brazilian competent authority informed the auditors about beef consignments containing products from female cattle treated with oestradiol.

The Commission promptly shared all necessary information with the Member States so that, if needed, they can take appropriate action both at borders and within their markets.

The Brazilian competent authority has confirmed the delisting of the concerned establishment for EU export, and the suspension of the activity of the concerned certification body.

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) system operated effectively. Member State authorities issued appropriate notifications upon detecting non-compliant products, enabling coordinated precautionary measures across the EU. The Commission oversees this system and continues to track actions taken by the Member States.

⁽¹⁾ COM/2025/75 final.