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P-001147/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.5.2026)

1. Mercosur countries have been authorised to export beef to the EU for a number of years. The Commission carries out audits of the official control and certification systems underpinning the guarantees provided by Mercosur countries in the certificate for bovine meat required by the EU. Between 2023 and 2025, a total of nine relevant audits were carried out in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. The corresponding audit reports are available at the Commission website¹, with one still being finalised². The Commission plans to carry out four audits for beef in Mercosur countries in 2026³.

2. Published audit reports contain information about the number of states/regions and establishments visited within each country, though names are not disclosed. Commission audits are system audits and not audits of individual establishments, and establishments are visited to evaluate the performance of the competent authorities. The audit's objective is to assess and verify the effectiveness and compliance of the authorities' official control and certification systems in order to support the guarantees provided in the certificate required by the EU.

3. Findings vary according to the scope of the audit and the countries' official control and certification systems and are detailed in the individual reports. The main findings and conclusions lead to recommendations to the competent authorities which are also published in the report. In response to the Commission's recommendations, the competent authorities present an action plan. The Commission assesses the action plan and follows up on its implementation as necessary, either administratively or during a subsequent audit. Action plans are published alongside the audit reports.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/index.cfm.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

³ For details on the audits carried out and programmed see the Annex.