

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001909/26
to the Commission
Waldemar Buda (ECR)
(8 May 2026)**

Subject: Salmonella in poultry imported to Greece from Brazil. Consumer safety and provisional implementation of the trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement

On 4 May 2026, the Greek media and veterinary services reported that Salmonella had been detected in as much as 80% of batches of Brazilian frozen poultry meat brought into the EU from Brazil under the new quota. This throws into question the issue of consumer safety in the context of the liberalisation of agri-food imports from Mercosur countries.

In 2025, following negotiations with the Brazilian agriculture ministry, the Commission took administrative decisions reinstating the pre-listing system for Brazilian establishments exporting poultry meat and eggs to the EU. This mechanism allows the Brazilian side to designate establishments eligible for export without the need for prior individual authorisation of each establishment by the EU authorities.

The Commission reintroduced the system despite its earlier suspension following the discovery in the ‘Carne Fraca’ scandal of serious deficiencies in Brazil’s veterinary surveillance system, including falsification of health certificates, corrupt inspectors and the release onto the market of meat not complying with food safety requirements.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission intend to suspend or revoke the implementing decisions and administrative measures reinstating the pre-listing system for Brazil?
2. Does the Commission consider that the Greek case calls into question the validity of reinstating Brazil’s right to designate its own export establishments?
3. Which EU and Member State authorities are currently conducting investigations?

Submitted: 8.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(24 July 2026)**

Microbiological criteria for imported poultry meat are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2073/2005. The authorities in the EU Member States carry out controls at border on imported products.

If they detect levels that go beyond those as laid down in that regulation, they are obliged to notify the Commission and the other Member States via the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF system).

Where specific risks are identified, additional measures are adopted, such as intensified official controls⁽¹⁾, or increased frequencies of physical checks for goods from specific third countries⁽²⁾. Where necessary, the Commission can adopt stricter measures such as restrictions of imports⁽³⁾.

In 2026, there have been no notifications made by Greece to the RASFF system regarding Salmonella contamination in imports of Brazilian poultry meat or products thereof. We are in close contact with the Greek authorities to get more clarity on the information circulating in the media.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1873: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1873/oj.

⁽²⁾ In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2129: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/2129/2021-12-26.

⁽³⁾ Based on Regulation (EU) 2017/625: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.