

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.7.2026)

Hilton beef quotas were part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiated in the 1970s and are managed in compliance with World Trade Organisation rules. Beef covered by those quotas is high-quality deboned beef cuts imported into the EU. For Hilton beef quotas from Mercosur countries, the in-quota duty changes with the beginning of provisional application of the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement (ITA) between the EU and the signatory MERCOSUR States, while the quota volumes remain unchanged, reflecting a framework established decades ago. The Commission has consistently provided updates on all relevant features of the EU-Mercosur Agreement over the years, and the text of the ITA has been duly published in the Official Journal¹.

Import tariff rate quotas (TRQs) established under the EU-Mercosur Agreement are administered exclusively by the EU, as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2026/996² which introduced in Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/761³ and (EU) 2020/1988⁴ rules for the management of those import TRQs for agricultural products. What falls under the competence of Mercosur countries is the issuance of a document which shall accompany all imports into the EU of products under the TRQs, as required by Article 3.30 of the Agreement. A model of the document was published in the Official Journal on 14 April 2026⁵.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2026/184/oj.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/996 of 29 April 2026 amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/761 and (EU) 2020/1988 regarding the creation, amendment and management of certain tariff quotas following the Interim Agreement on Trade between the European Union, of the one part, and the Common Market of the South, the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, of the other part (OJ L, 2026/996, 30.4.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/996/oj).

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 of 17 December 2019 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences (OJ L 185, 12.6.2020, pp. 24–252, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/761/oj).

⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1988 of 11 November 2020 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 and (EU) No 510/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the administration of import tariff quotas in accordance with the ‘first come, first served’ principle (OJ L 422, 14.12.2020, pp. 4–136, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/1988/oj).

⁵ Notice of the European Commission[2026/874], ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/notice/2026/874/oj>.