

**Question for written answer E-002134/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Risks associated with the introduction of new regulations on imports of poultry meat from South America

With regard to the ongoing negotiations between the Commission and the countries of South America in the Mercosur trade organisation, poultry businesses have asked us about the risks which the introduction of new regulations on the import of poultry meat will entail.

Producers believe that increasing import quotas for poultry represents a major threat to the European poultry industry. The influx of imported meat will lead to a decline in the sale of chickens produced in the EU.

Under the new trade agreement consumers will also lose out. Poultry production in South America is subject to significantly lower quality standards than in Europe. European poultry producers must meet high standards in terms of animal welfare, food safety and environmental protection. There are many indications that imported meat often does not meet European safety requirements.

In this connection:

- (1) What is the Commission's position on the potential risks which the introduction of new regulations on the import of poultry meat will entail?
- (2) What action is it taking to support and protect the sector?