

**Priority question for written answer P-002677/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: EU-Mercosur trade agreement Opportunities and Challenges for Europe

The EU-Mercosur trade agreement offers opportunities for cooperation between the EU and Latin America. At the same time, it raises questions about compliance with European food safety standards and the impact of the trade agreement on the European agricultural sector. A recent DG Sante¹ audit report shows that Brazil still faces challenges in meeting EU standards, in particular with regard to the use of banned growth hormones such as oestradiol 17 β . This poses risks for consumer safety and threatens fair competition within the EU.

In addition, research carried out by Wageningen Economic & Research² shows that the estimated economic benefits for the Netherlands remain limited, with an expected GDP boost of only 0.03 % in 2035. At the same time, sensitive sectors, such as livestock farming, may be disproportionately affected by competition from Mercosur imports.

In view of the above:

1. What concrete steps is the Commission taking to ensure that Mercosur exports to the EU fully comply with strict EU food safety standards, including the ban on hormones such as oestradiol 17 β ?
2. What measures are foreseen to adequately protect sensitive sectors, such as European agriculture, from unfair competition and to ensure compliance with mirror clauses?
3. What opportunities can the Commission identify to increase the economic benefits of the trade agreement for the Netherlands and other EU Member States, while ensuring compliance with sustainable and social standards in Mercosur countries?

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¹ DG Sante 2024-8087 – Final Report of an audit of Brazil

² Wageningen University & Research - Report 2020-065: Effecten van het EU-Mercosur akkoord op de Nederlandse economie