

**Question for written answer E-002022/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Brazilian rotten meat scandal and EU-Mercosur agreement

A fresh round of negotiations on the free-trade agreement between the European Union and Mercosur, launched in 1999, opened in Buenos Aires on Monday, 20 March 2017.

Three days earlier, on 17 March, Brazil was rocked by a food scandal. An extensive network responsible for illicitly trading rotten meat, involving a number of health inspectors as well as meat industry 'giants', had just been broken up. This scandal has brought to light serious fraud and numerous shortcomings in monitoring and inspection procedures.

What specific measures will the Commission put in place to guarantee that European consumers are protected?

Will the Commission suspend imports of these products from Brazil?

Will it exclude beef, which is a particularly sensitive sector, from the trade negotiations between the European Union and Mercosur?