

**Question for written answer E-002023/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Excluding meat sectors from the negotiations with Mercosur

Brazil is in the grip of a major health scandal involving meat. The world's largest beef producer, JBS, is accused of having marketed meat unfit for consumption after reconditioning it with chemical products, with the complicity of some of the country's health surveillance authorities.

This scandal is a further argument highlighting the need for the greatest possible caution in trade negotiations with Mercosur, bearing in mind that licences authorising producers to export to the European Union are issued by the Brazilian authorities.

Furthermore, these negotiations have been resumed at a time when the Commission's impact assessments take no account of the accumulated effects of the 12 agreements under negotiation, notably with major meat producers like Australia and New Zealand, and without taking into account the impact of the United Kingdom's departure in terms of adjusting the import quotas already agreed.

Should the Commission not update its negotiating mandate, which dates from 1999, take account of critical developments in Europe's meat sectors and European consumers' demands in relation to health, and consequently consider excluding meat sectors as 'sensitive products'?