

**Question for written answer E-001648/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Situation of the EU-MERCOSUR free-trade negotiations

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the study on the impact on agriculture of free trade which was presented in December 2016. According to the study, signing 12 free-trade agreements on the basis of the negotiations would result in a fall in production to the tune of 8-16% in the case of beef, 1.5-3% for poultry, 8-13% for rice and 2% for sheepmeat.

I would like to stress that we should only support free-trade agreements which do not cause EU producers to suffer considerable actual losses. We should not forget that agriculture remains one of the main employers in rural parts of Europe and is the principal way of guaranteeing their survival and combating migration from the countryside.

- (1) Is it true that, as things stand, the Commission will be allowing MERCOSUR countries to import into the EU, duty free, 100 000 tonnes of beef, 100 000 tonnes of poultry, over 600 000 tonnes of ethanol, 80 000 tonnes of rice and large quantities of sugar every year?
- (2) If this is not true, precisely what quantities of these products are involved?
- (3) If the above quantities are approved, what impact does the Commission expect this to have on the EU's poultry, egg, beef cattle, rice and bioethanol sectors?