

EN

E-003781/2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(23.11.2025)

The bilateral safeguard clause in the EU-Mercosur Agreement is an effective tool to protect any EU sector in case of serious injury due to increased imports. The Commission proposal for a Regulation implementing the bilateral safeguard clause for agricultural products<sup>1</sup> of 8 October 2025 translates into EU law the political commitments set out on 3 September 2025. The Regulation will enable the Commission to act swiftly and effectively to counteract potential negative effects, with specific provisions on the monitoring and launch of investigations for sensitive products.

Any food product placed on the EU market, being domestically produced or imported from Mercosur countries, must comply with EU's sanitary requirements. These requirements are not negotiable. Official controls at EU borders performed by competent authorities of Member States are intended to verify whether EU food safety rules are respected. The Commission carries out audits in third countries to ensure that control systems provide enough guarantees. In the framework of the Communication on a vision for agriculture and food<sup>2</sup>, the Commission announced a dedicated task force to further strengthen the control on imports.

The Communication foresees a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably for pesticides and animal welfare, in line with international rules. The Commission has already started the impact assessment process for the modernisation of farm animal welfare rules, and the start of the process for pesticides residues is foreseen for end 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0639>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.