

**Question for oral answer O-0079/2010/rev.2  
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**James Nicholson, Janusz Wojciechowski**

on behalf of the ECR Group

**José Bové**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

**George Lyon**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

**Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Karin Kadenbach**

on behalf of the S&D Group

**Subject:** The implications for EU agriculture of the reopening of negotiations with Mercosur with a view to concluding an Association Agreement

The College of Commissioners agreed at its meeting of 4 May 2010 to reopen negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and the Mercosur countries. Should an agreement result from these negotiations, it may present EU agricultural producers with considerable challenges, notably in the beef, poultry meat, wheat and fruit and vegetable sectors. There may also be indirect adverse consequences for other sectors including the pig meat sector.

- What is the precise mandate which has been given to the negotiators with regard to the agricultural aspects of the negotiations?
- Can the Commission provide Parliament with a detailed analysis of the likely impact on European producers if a deal is agreed on the basis of that mandate?
- Which measures, if any, does the Commission intend to take to provide adequate compensation for EU producers whose economic interests are adversely affected by an Association Agreement with the Mercosur bloc?
- How will it ensure that the standards, in terms of food safety, labour conditions, environmental protection and animal welfare, for the products imported from the Mercosur countries are equivalent to those demanded of EU producers?
- What is the relationship between such an agreement and the ongoing negotiations for a multilateral agreement at WTO level?

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Deadline for reply: 15.6.2010