



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate G – International
G.2 – The Americas

Brussels
AGRI.G.2/EP/LH/(2025)9824642

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Subject: Inquiry about the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement

Dear Mr. Dobbelaere, Dear Mr. Patruno,

In response to your inquiry of 3rd September, we would like to provide you with the following clarifications.

The EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA) introduces limited concessions on specific goods such as beef and poultry in the form of fixed tariff rate quotas (TRQ) expressed in weight. The deal provides full and comprehensive protection for all EU sensitivities in the agricultural sector. It limits preferential agri-food imports from Mercosur to a fraction of EU production (for example 1.5% for beef and 1.3% for poultry).

For beef, the relevant TRQ provides for 99 000 t in carcass weight equivalent (cwe), broken down into 54 450 t for fresh and 44 550 t for frozen beef, subject to an inbound duty rate of 7.5% gradually phased-in over 5 years. For poultry, the TRQ is granted duty-free for 180 000 t cwe.

The bilateral safeguard, enshrined in the EU-Mercosur Agreement, allows the EU to respond when a surge of Mercosur imports is found to cause a serious injury or threatens to do so in a specific sector. A safeguard investigation is triggered at the request of an affected domestic industry or at the request of one or several Member States on behalf of a proportion of the relevant EU industry. The affected industry can be concentrated in one or several Member States.

The Commission would then launch an investigation collecting relevant information. The safeguard investigation could result in a temporary suspension of trade preferences granted to the Mercosur countries either in form of stopping any further tariff reductions or going back to the MFN duty applied to all trading partners. The Commission can impose provisional safeguard measures to avert damage to the EU industry. For further details, the text of the bilateral safeguard provisions of the Agreement can be found [here](#).

The Commission is proposing to supplement the agreement with a legal act that operationalises the bilateral safeguard chapter of the EMPA.

Yours sincerely,



Elena Panichi
Head of Unit

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