

EU-MERCOSUR* TRADE AGREEMENT

RESPECTING EUROPE'S FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS



*Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

Any product arriving to Europe must comply with the EU's stringent food safety standards. The EU-Mercosur trade agreement does not change anything in that respect. The agreement also reaffirms the 'precautionary principle' and the right of both sides to adopt measures to protect human, animal and plant health, including in situations where scientific information is not conclusive.

KEY FACTS

- ✓ **No change for EU stringent food safety rules**
 - The agreement does not affect EU legislation
 - EU food safety, animal and plants health standards are not negotiable
 - We keep our strict approach on genetically modified organisms (GMO) and any other food matters
 - The EU maintains its right to set maximum allowed levels for pesticide residues
- ✓ **The EU remains free to regulate with all necessary precaution**
 - The EU remains fully independent in deciding safety criteria for products that reach our market.
 - The agreement reaffirms our right to regulate in the public interest
 - The agreement explicitly upholds the 'precautionary principle', allowing us to keep a product out of the EU market if even if the science on whether it is safe or not is inconclusive
- ✓ **All imported food must comply with the EU's own standards**
 - The EU rules apply to all products sold in the EU, whether produced domestically or imported
 - Our robust system of checks allows us to make sure that EU rules are effectively respected

Based on a level of risk related to a given product, EU food safety checks include:

- inspections and prior-approval of operators interested in exporting to the EU
- control of documents and physical checks at the border
- sampling of products already at sale in the EU

EU Member State administrations play a central role in performing these controls. They inform the Commission and other national administrations in the EU through a well-established alert system about any unauthorised or unhealthy products. This allows us to intensify controls and make sure all such products are kept out of EU market.

Following the 2017 "Carne Fraca" events the EU imposed a series of restrictions on meat imports from Brazil, some of which remain in place and will do so as long as necessary. The agreement will not limit Europe's ability to resort to this kind of action in the future.



WHAT'S NEW?

The agreement will help us better tackle common challenges...

Reinforce transparency and exchanges of information between the administrations on both sides.

This will help to keep unsafe products out of the market.



Combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) affecting humans and animals.

The agreement creates a dedicated working group to coordinate our action in food systems and cooperation in international organisations.



Promote animal welfare

The agreement will establish a structured dialogue and exchange of information between the EU and Mercosur on animal welfare.

The European Commission checks the respect of conditions and cooperates with authorities of Mercosur states.

...and make it easier for EU food products to reach the MERCOSUR market

The **same requirements** wherever in the EU the product comes from



Faster, simpler and more predictable procedures, and clear and transparent audit rules for European exporters

Exports from non-affected zones can continue despite a disease present in some areas within the EU ('regionalisation')

