

Basic information	
<p>2025/0322(COD)</p> <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation</p>	Procedure completed
<p>Bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products</p> <p>Subject</p> <p>6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands</p> <p>Geographical area</p> <p>Argentina Brazil Paraguay Uruguay</p>	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	INTA International Trade		MATO Gabriel (EPP)	03/11/2025
			Shadow rapporteur ASSIS Francisco (S&D) BAY Christophe (P/E) TORSELLI Francesco (ECR) HAHN Svenja (Renew) BRICMONT Saskia (Greens /EFA) AUBRY Manon (The Left) BUCHHEIT Markus (ESN)	
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		Chair on behalf of committee VRECIANOVA Veronika (ECR)	24/11/2025
Council of the European Union				
European	Commission DG	Commissioner		

Commission	Trade and Economic Security	ŠEFČOVIČ Maroš
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Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/10/2025	Legislative proposal published	COM(2025)0639 	Summary
24/11/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
08/12/2025	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
09/12/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0254/2025	
16/12/2025	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0315/2025	Summary
16/12/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/12/2025	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
27/01/2026	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2026)000263 PE782.442	
10/02/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0030/2026	Summary
10/02/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/03/2026	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/03/2026	Final act signed		
19/03/2026	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2025/0322(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/10/04153

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE779.615	20/11/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE781.134	27/11/2025	

Specific opinion	AGRI	PE779.809	02/12/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0254/2025	09/12/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T10-0315/2025	16/12/2025	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE782.442	22/01/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0030/2026	10/02/2026	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2026)000263	09/01/2026	
Draft final act	00056/2025/LEX	05/03/2026	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2025)0639 	08/10/2025	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2026)03-26	26/03/2026	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2025)0639	14/01/2026	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2026/0687
OJ OJ L 19.03.2026

Bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products

PURPOSE: to incorporate into EU law the safeguard provisions included in the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and in the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: [The EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement](#) and [the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement](#) grant preferential treatment to products originating in or destined for Mercosur countries and include bilateral safeguard clauses for the temporary withdrawal of tariff preferences. The specificities of some agricultural products subject to these Agreements, as well as the vulnerable situation of the Union's outermost regions require ad hoc provisions.

Both agreements grant to products originating in or destined to Mercosur countries preferential treatment, while protecting Union producers of sensitive commodities in the agriculture sector by limiting preferences to tariff rate quotas. The bilateral safeguard clauses included in both agreements allow for the temporary withdrawal of tariff preferences to counteract possible negative impacts of the tariff reductions, including for products whose market access is constrained by the limits contained in tariff rate quotas. A delay in applying justified safeguard measures could lead to injury to Union farmers in one or more Member States that could be difficult to remedy.

CONTENT: this proposal for a Regulation constitutes the legal instrument for the implementation of the safeguard clauses of the EU-MERCOSUR Partnership Agreement and the EU-MERCOSUR Interim Trade Agreement. It lays down procedures to guarantee the timely and effective implementation of **bilateral safeguard measures** for agricultural products. It includes specific provisions as regards certain sensitive agricultural products.

Safeguard measures are only to be considered where the product in question is imported into the Union in such increased quantities, in absolute terms or relative to Union production, and under such conditions as to cause or threaten to cause **serious injury** to Union producers of like or directly competing products.

The proposal includes:

- **regular monitoring** of sensitive product markets by the Commission, with the cooperation of Member States and industry stakeholders, to assess import trends and their impact;
- the opening **of investigations** in response to requests from Member States or representatives of Union industry where there is evidence of serious harm or a threat of serious harm, as well as the accelerated opening of investigations specifically concerning sensitive products;
- the possibility for the Commission to adopt **prior surveillance measures** to monitor import trends that may lead to situations justifying safeguard measures;
- the establishment of **provisional** safeguard measures in critical circumstances where a delay could cause irreparable harm and specifies the conditions and duration of these measures;
- the establishment of **definitive** safeguard measures when investigations confirm the criteria for defining serious harm, while taking into consideration the protection of confidential information;
- **the duration and potential extension** of safeguard measures, ensuring that they are applied only to the extent necessary to protect Union industry. The total duration of a safeguard measure shall not exceed four years, including the period of application of any provisional safeguard measure.

The Commission should submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application, implementation and compliance with the obligations contained in the regulation.

Bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products

2025/0322(COD) - 16/12/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 431 votes to 161, with 70 abstentions, **amendments** on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products.

The matter was referred back for interinstitutional negotiations to the committee responsible.

Investigations into serious harm

According to Parliament, the Commission should open an investigation into the need to take protective measures when imports of sensitive agricultural products **increase by an average of 5% over a period of three years** (compared to 10% per year in the Commission's proposal).

Clear indications of a **deterioration in the economic situation of the industry**, across the Union or at Member State level, including sustained decreases in domestic prices, may be sufficient to demonstrate injury to the sector and may warrant the initiation of an investigation.

Where possible, the investigation should be concluded within **three months** (rather than six months) and **two months** for sensitive products (rather than four months) from the date of publication of the notice of opening in the Official Journal of the European Union.

In case of sensitive products, provisional safeguard measures should be adopted without delay and in any event within a maximum of **14 days** from the initiation of the investigation.

Environment, Health and phytosanitary clause

A safeguard measure could take the form of the introduction of a **reciprocity obligation** regarding products and production standards.

The Commission should initiate an investigation and adopt safeguard measures where there is credible evidence that imports benefiting from tariff preferences do not meet equivalent environmental, animal welfare, health, food safety, or labour protection requirements applicable to Union producers.

In the event of a documented risk to human, animal, or plant health, including the use of production methods prohibited in the Union or failure to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, the Commission may **immediately suspend** imports of the product benefiting from tariff preferences.

Anti-circumvention measures

If the Commission identifies circumvention of safeguard measures through changes in trade routes, including imports from Parties exempted from the safeguard measures, it may extend the scope of the safeguard measures to those imports or adopt other necessary implementing measures. The Commission should strengthen customs cooperation with Member States in verifying rules of origin and ensuring full traceability of imports of sensitive products.

Monitoring

The Commission should ensure constant and proactive monitoring of imports of all sensitive products from the date of entry into force of the interim trade agreement or the partnership agreement. It should present a monitoring report **every three months**, containing its assessment of the impact of imports of sensitive products benefitting from preferential market access under the Agreement, including data on import volumes and prices for all sensitive products, with appropriate regional disaggregation.

By 1 March 2026, the Commission should develop and make available to Member States **technical guidelines** on the indicators, parameters and types of data that can be monitored in markets at national and local level.

Bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products

2025/0322(COD) - 10/02/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 483 votes to 102, with 67 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products.

The proposed regulation sets out how the EU could temporarily suspend tariff preferences envisaged in the EU-Mercosur trade deal on agricultural imports from the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), if a surge in these imports harms EU producers.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading by amending the Commission's proposal.

Investigations into serious harm

According to the amended text, the Commission should launch an investigation into the need for protection measures when imports of sensitive agricultural products, including poultry, beef, eggs, citrus and sugar, **increase by 5% on a three year average** (below the 10% per year proposed by the Commission) and if, at the same time, import prices are 5% below the relevant domestic price.

An investigation should be initiated by the Commission at the request of a Member State, of any natural or legal person that is acting on behalf of the Union industry, or of any association not having legal personality that is acting on behalf of the Union industry, where there is sufficient prima facie evidence of serious injury or the threat of serious injury to the Union industry.

The Commission should not be limited to the quantitative thresholds set out in this Regulation when establishing prima facie evidence of serious injury. **Clear indications of a deterioration in the economic situation of the industry**, across the Union or at Member State level, including sustained decreases in domestic prices, may be sufficient to demonstrate prima facie evidence of serious injury and may warrant the initiation of an investigation.

Where possible, the investigation should be concluded within **six months** and four months for sensitive products from the date on which the notice of initiation is published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

In the case of sensitive products, provisional safeguard measures should be adopted without delay and in any event within a maximum of **21 days** from the initiation of the investigation.

Anti-circumvention measures

If the Commission identifies circumvention of safeguard measures through changes in trade routes, including imports from Parties exempted from the safeguard measures provided for in this Regulation, it should inform the competent authorities of the Member States in order to strengthen customs cooperation with Mercosur countries in verifying compliance with the rules of origin provided for in the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and in the Interim Trade Agreement and ensuring full compliance with those rules.

Monitoring

The Commission should **constantly and proactively** monitor imports of any sensitive products from the date of entry into force of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and in the Interim Trade Agreement. Monitoring should be extended to other products or sectors if the relevant Union industry makes a duly justified request to the Commission. The Commission should **present a monitoring report at least every six months**, containing its assessment of the impact of imports of sensitive products benefitting from preferential market access under the Agreements, including data on import volumes and prices for all sensitive products.