

LETTER(26)00071:1

To the Members of the European Parliament

Brussels, 16 January 2026

**RE: European farming's persistent concerns regarding the EU-Mercosur Agreement**

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

We wish to address you again at this crucial moment, to reiterate the profound and unresolved concerns of Europe's farming and agri-cooperative sectors regarding the EU-Mercosur Agreement.

As Copa and Cogeca have consistently underlined from the outset, this agreement is fundamentally flawed and unfit for approval.

On 18 December, more than 10,000 farmers from across the European Union mobilised in Brussels to denounce the agreement and its consequences for EU agriculture. This demonstration sent a clear political signal. Despite subsequent discussions and proposed adjustments, no progress has been made on the core issues raised by the farming community:

- The agreement asks European farmers to compete against products produced under standards that the Union itself would never accept. **At this moment there still are no credible and enforceable guarantees on environmental protection, animal welfare, labour rights or the use of banned substances.** Trade policy cannot continue to reward lower standards while European farmers are asked to do more with less. It is not credible to promote sustainability internally while importing products that contradict the very principles imposed on EU producers. Nor is it fair to partners who have accepted far stricter sustainability commitments in their trade agreements with the Union.

The EU-Mercosur Agreement must also be assessed in the context of its **cumulative impact**. Beef, poultry, sugar, honey, ethanol and rice producers are already under severe pressure. This was already the case when the agreement was concluded in 2019, and it is even more so today, following increased imports from Ukraine and the EU's intention to conclude further agreements with countries that export the same sensitive products. European agriculture cannot continue to be treated as the adjustment variable of EU trade policy.

- **The so-called Safeguards Regulation does not change the substance of the problem.** It does not prevent damage but merely offers the possibility for the Commission to react once damage has already occurred. Safeguards that are slow, politically discretionary and triggered only after serious harm has been demonstrated are no safeguards at all for farmers. Once imports have depressed prices and forced producers out of the market, no mechanism can undo that damage. Moreover, key improvements introduced by the European Parliament during the legislative process - notably on reciprocity - have been dropped.



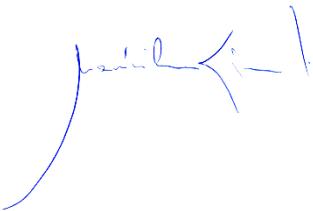
Finally, the **unprecedented way in which this particular agreement has been negotiated**, promoted and pushed through in the approval process has also **led to unprecedented and exceptional Institutional responses**.

**Resorting to the ECJ referral further proves that the Members of European Parliament have lost trust in the way in which the ratification process has been conducted**, even more so after the withdrawal of the declaration on no provisional implementation. Additionally, significant issues that reflect the key concerns of the farming community are raised in the tabled motion for resolution, namely on reciprocity/exposure to lower standards.

That is why **Copa and Cogeca remaining firmly opposed to the EU-Mercosur Agreement call on Members of the European Parliament to support the ECJ referral action**, preventing the agreement to be approved in its current form.

We thank you for your attention and remain at your disposal for further exchange.

Yours sincerely,



Massimiliano Giansanti  
President of Copa



Lennart Nilsson  
President of Cogeca