

Food origin labelling: Developments and issues

SUMMARY

Although origin labelling for food cannot be directly linked to a product's intrinsic quality, consumers are increasingly interested in local food systems and in short supply chains. While the easiest way to convey origin information is through labelling, European Union (EU) law requires the display of such information only for a limited number of food products. EU consumers and consumer groups have long advocated greater transparency on food product origins.

In force since December 2014, the EU regulation on the provision of food information to consumers updated and harmonised food labelling requirements, set harmonised rules for the presentation of allergen information and tightened up the rules to prevent misleading practices. The regulation allows EU countries to adopt additional national measures concerning the mandatory labelling of food products, as long as these are justified by reasons specifically defined in the regulation.

Indicating the country of origin is currently mandatory for certain food products, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, fishery products, honey, olive oil, eggs, beef and beef products, unprocessed meat of swine, sheep, goat and poultry and the primary ingredient of a food when it differs from the origin given for the product as a whole. In the absence of EU rules, some EU countries have enacted national legislation requiring mandatory origin labelling for certain categories of foods.

As part of its 'farm to fork' strategy, adopted in 2020, the Commission intended to revise existing rules to extend the mandatory indication of origin to more categories of food products. However, such a proposal never emerged, and if or when it will be put forward remains unclear.



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Background

The food supply chain is becoming increasingly global. In a single dish nowadays consumers might find Brazilian beef, Polish potatoes, Italian tomatoes and Kenyan green beans. Food has become a focal point for current societal, ethical, and environmental concerns.

Although country-of-origin labelling cannot be directly linked with a product's intrinsic quality characteristics, consumers are increasingly interested in local food systems and in short supply chains. Concerns and expectations are also growing with regard to food safety, food quality, the environment and animal welfare.

While the easiest way to convey origin information is through labelling, European Union (EU) law does not generally require that information to be displayed – except for some food categories – and it is therefore most often absent. As a result, consumers and consumer groups in the EU have long been calling for greater transparency as to the origin of food products. In 2022, the European Commission announced that it was willing to move in that direction. As part of its ['farm to fork' strategy](#), adopted in 2020, the Commission intended to revise the existing rules to extend the mandatory indication of origin to new categories of food products. However, this proposal never emerged and it remains unclear whether it will be put forward at all, or when.

Why origin labelling matters

The impact of country-of-origin information on purchasing habits is a well-established phenomenon in consumer research, although its nature and extent are still debated.

The latest [Eurobarometer on food safety](#) showed that when buying food, geographical origin was the most important factor for 46 % of respondents, preceded only by cost (54 %) and taste (51 %). Similarly, a 2020 EU-wide [poll on food eating and buying habits](#) found that origin is of importance to over a third of consumers (34 %) when purchasing food.

[Research](#) on why food origin matters to consumers suggests that this information serves two main purposes. First, many consumers believe that country-of-origin information is useful for identifying good quality, safe and environmentally friendly food products. Second, some consumers feel that it is their duty to support their local or national farmers and food industry, and they need information about the country of origin of food products to be able to fulfil this obligation.

This, in turn, nourishes the belief that domestic and local food products are superior to products from other places. The above findings have also been confirmed by another extensive [research study](#) – prepared at the request of the European Commission – concluding that, apart from the simple desire to know from where a food item comes, consumers generally see origin information as a way to assess its safety, quality, environmental impact and ethical dimension.

However, while consumer information and labelling are important and necessary – both to allow for informed consumer choices and to encourage products' reformulation – when actually shopping, consumers are influenced by other elements of food environments, such as [advertising and marketing](#),¹ [availability](#), and [pricing](#).

Is country of origin relevant to judging food quality?

Linking country of origin to essential food properties is not problematic in itself. However, it does not always appear to be a reliable way of assessing food quality, food safety and the environmental impact of a specific food product.

There is no denying that certain food products' characteristics result directly from having benefited from specific soil or climatic conditions. Some ranges of [traditional products](#) are prepared according to long-established recipes with ingredients originating from a particular place. These products usually exhibit a [protected designation of origin](#) at EU level (see section on the EU legal framework).

However, in the case of [processed food products](#),² country-of-origin information is of no substantial relevance when assessing quality, because the link between characteristics and origin is impossible to preserve. What is more, some experiments show that faced with a [more appealing taste](#), consumers are willing to brush aside locally grown produce.

The EU has some of the strictest food safety legislation in the world. What is more, the standards applied across the entire food chain are the same regardless of a product's origin. Fraud can occur,³ and the traceability of foodstuffs needs to be ensured but, arguably, country-of-origin information alone cannot give consumers a sense of whether a particular food is safe or not.

Food safety in the EU in a nutshell

EU food safety policy is grounded in the functional separation of risk assessment from risk management. This helps guarantee scientific integrity while avoiding the risk of political pressure. Together with national authorities and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) – which provides independent scientific advice – the EU has implemented a solid alert system to detect and respond to various food safety issues. While EFSA plays the role of risk assessor, the EU risk managers – the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU countries – retain control over regulatory decision-making, policy, and prevention and control measures.

In accordance with the 2020 'farm to fork' strategy, a complex and integrated system of rules has emerged, covering the [entire food chain](#), from animal feed and health, plant protection and food production, to processing, storage, transport, import and export, and retail sales. This approach was embedded and further developed in the overarching 2020 [European Green Deal](#) and seeks to align healthy and secure food production with environmental conservation. The EU also plays a key role in setting global standards in the framework of international organisations, such as the [World Organisation for Animal Health](#) and with its contribution to the [Codex Alimentarius](#) and the [International Plant Protection Convention](#).

Intuitively, consumers often link local food to sustainability, based on the assumption that it has been transported less far. This premise, however, ignores the fact that there are [various other elements](#) – such as land use, production processes and storage – that might affect a product's carbon footprint beyond transportation.⁴ It is therefore important to grasp fully the complexities of the entire food chain.

What is more, in the EU, where most countries are modest in size, country-of-origin labelling may not be an adequate way to assess the distance separating consumers from producers. For those living in [cross border regions](#), food products coming from the other side of the border may well be 'more local' than domestic ones produced on the other side of the country.

Importantly, interest in origin often goes [deeper than interest in sustainability](#). Consumers choose shorter supplier food chains because they wish to support local producers and want to make sure that adequate environmental and welfare standards, as well as labour rights, are in place.

Welfare labelling

In November 2024, at his confirmation hearing, [Commissioner-Designate](#) for Health and Animal welfare, Olivér Várhelyi, pledged to focus on gathering robust evidence, particularly on the impact of a voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme on farmers, food business operators, consumer behaviour and the internal market.

Does origin labelling reflect origin correctly?

Origin labelling [increases cost](#) for both economic operators and consumers. Beyond the labelling itself and its ensuing technicalities, the costly part involves determining in legal terms what the origin indicated on the label should be and adapting the process of production if need be. Importantly, the strict application of country-of-origin labelling rules can sometimes be misleading for consumers.

According to Article 24 of the [Union Customs Code](#), 'goods the production of which involves more than one country or territory shall be deemed to originate in the country or territory where they underwent their **last, substantial, economically justified processing** or working, in an undertaking equipped for that purpose, resulting in the **manufacture of a new product** or representing an **important stage of manufacture**'.

In practice, this means that a food product processed in a given country originates from that country even though all of its ingredients might come from other places.

A case brought before the Court of Justice of the EU in 2019 offers a perfect example. A request for a [ruling](#) concerned a company selling mushrooms and accused of claiming falsely that its production was of German origin. The production involved different stages, taking place in three different countries, over the course of 6 weeks. The cultivation boxes containing the mushrooms to be harvested were transported to Germany only at the end of the process. The raw materials were not of German origin and most of the production process took place outside Germany.

The EU rules applicable clearly indicate however that only the place of harvesting matters in determining the legal origin of the goods. This led the Court to declare that the country of origin in this case was the country in which the mushrooms were harvested, 'regardless of the fact that some of the main stages of production take place in other EU Member States and that the cultivated mushrooms have been transported to the territory of harvest only three days or less before the first harvest'.

EU legal framework

Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers

In force since December 2014, [Regulation No 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (the FIC Regulation) updated and harmonised food-labelling requirements in the EU, setting, for example, harmonised rules for the presentation of allergen information and strengthening rules to prevent misleading practices. The regulation allows EU countries to adopt additional national measures concerning the mandatory labelling of food products, as long as these are justified by reasons specifically defined in the regulation.

Indicating the country of origin is currently mandatory for certain food products, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, fishery products, honey, olive oil and eggs.⁵ As a consequence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy ('mad cow') disease epidemic, an indication of origin (place of birth, rearing and slaughter) has been mandatory for beef and beef products since 1 January 2002.⁶

Similar indications have also been mandatory for unprocessed swine, sheep, goat and poultry meat since 1 April 2015.⁷ The country where the animal was reared and the country of slaughter need to be indicated on the label. There is a derogation for minced meat, which may simply be labelled as 'EU', 'non-EU' or 'reared and slaughtered in EU and non-EU' countries.

Determining the origin of a product that contains ingredients sourced from multiple countries remains the greatest challenge. Such products should have labels that give an accurate representation of their origin, avoiding ambiguity. Detailed requirements concerning the implementation of country-of-origin rules are set out in an [implementing regulation](#).

In addition, since 1 April 2020, the origin of the main ingredient – also called the primary ingredient – must be clearly indicated on the product when it differs from the origin given for the product as a whole. The primary ingredient is defined in the FIC Regulation as the ingredient representing 'more than 50 % of the food or which is usually associated with the name of the food by the consumer and for which in most cases a quantitative indication is required' (Article 2).

The implementing regulation specifies that the label can either mention the name of the country, the region or the geographical area where the main ingredient comes from or simply explain that its origin differs from the country of origin of the food product.

For example, a chocolate bar manufactured in Belgium, but containing cocoa sourced from Côte d'Ivoire and sugar from Brazil should not be labelled '*Belgian chocolate*'. Instead, the label should read: '*Produced in Belgium using cocoa from Côte d'Ivoire*', to reflect the origin of the primary ingredient.

Understanding country-of-origin labelling

Country-of-origin labelling informs consumers of where a food product **originates** from and where it was **processed**. The following labels convey this type of information.

- **Made in:** generally refers to where the product was manufactured or processed.
- **Product of:** indicates the country from which the primary ingredient originates.
- **Grown in:** refers to the cultivation location of the primary ingredient.

It is therefore essential to understand and differentiate between the origin of ingredients and the location of the final product, which is deemed to be where it last underwent a treatment or process resulting in a significant change. Assembling ingredients from various countries in one location does not necessarily mean the final product can use a 'made in' status of that location. This would ultimately depend on the degree of processing that has taken place. For example, the blending of dry ingredients to create muesli would not be considered 'significant change'.

Certain processed fruit and vegetable products, as well as nuts and dried fruits and trimmed, processed and cut produce, such as packs of ready-to-eat salad, will require country-of-origin labelling from 1 January 2025. While the Commission [implementing regulation](#) on marketing standards for the fruit and vegetables sector will allow producers to use 'EU', 'non-EU' or 'mix of EU and non-EU' origin labelling when the pack contains mixed ingredients – such as different fruits or various salad leaves – single ingredient packs must be labelled with the source country or countries.⁸

EU quality schemes

The names of food products and drinks for which a direct link exists between their qualities or characteristics and their geographical origin, can be registered and protected under EU [quality schemes](#) as geographical indications. Recognised as intellectual property, the [geographical indications](#) guarantee the product's authenticity and protect its name from misuse or imitation (see Figure 1).

There are three categories of [geographical indications](#):

- **protected designation of origin (PDO)** can be used for food and wine, where every part of the process takes place in the specific region. *Kalamata* olive oil is an example.
- **protected geographical indication (PGI)** can be used for food and wine, where a product is made in a particular region using a particular method, but the raw materials are not necessarily from that region. For example, the *Westfälischer Knochenschinken* ham is produced in Westphalia using traditional techniques, but the meat used does not necessarily come from animals born and reared in that specific region of Germany.
- **geographical indication of spirit drinks (GI, same logo as PGI)** can be used where at least one distillation or preparation stage takes place in a particular region. Raw materials do not have to originate in that region. For instance, Irish whiskey has been distilled and matured in Ireland since the sixth century, but the raw materials do not all come from Ireland.

Other quality schemes include '**mountain products**' and '**products from the EU's outermost regions**' (the French overseas *départements* – Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion and Martinique – and the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands). Even though the country of origin is at the heart of the very existence of the EU quality schemes, the schemes are not strictly related to origin labelling, as they are governed by very specific labelling requirements.⁹

In addition to the EU schemes, a large number of voluntary certification schemes at national level or those run by private operators are in place. The European Commission has developed [guidelines](#) for best practice for the operation of such schemes.

Figure 1 – PDO and PGI quality schemes



Source: [European Commission](#), 2022.

Combating food fraud

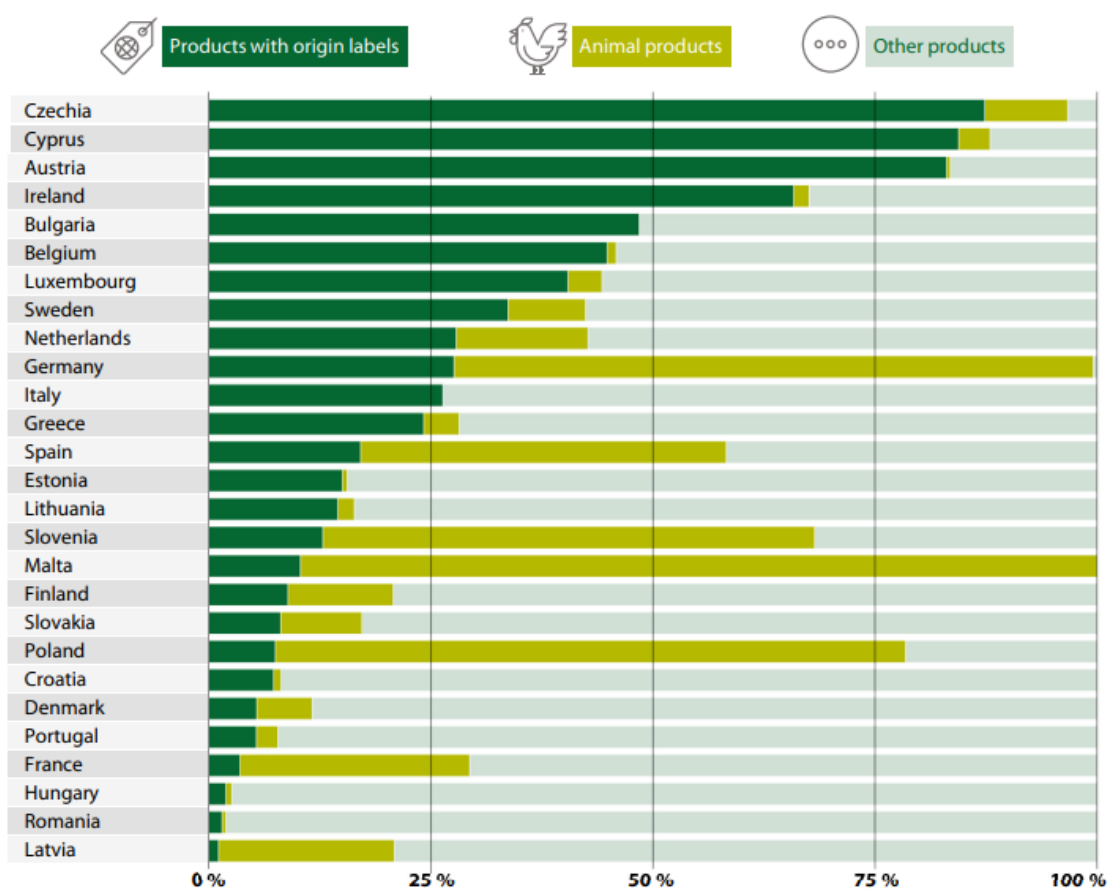
Food fraud – the counterfeiting of food and beverages – and the abuse of geographical indications constitutes a significant and serious crime area. Sales of products with protected origin generate approximately [€75 billion](#) annually. To protect public health, guarantee safety and dismantle the organised criminal networks involved, every year [operation OPSON](#) gathers Europol – the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, OLAF – the EU Anti-Fraud Office, the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development and 29 countries across Europe, as well as food and beverage producers from the private sector.

The fight against food fraud covers operations in physical as well as online markets – such as e-commerce platforms – and the complete food supply chain from raw materials to final product. As far as counterfeit and wrongly designated foods are concerned, olive oil and wines featuring PDOs are the most affected types of products. In 2024 – this yearly operation now in its 13th run – enabled law enforcement, customs, and food regulatory agencies to seize some 22 000 tonnes of food as well as 850 000 litres of (mostly alcoholic) beverages. In total, goods valued at over €91 million were taken off the market.

Importantly, in its 2024 [report](#) on food labelling, the European Court of Auditors found that control systems in the EU countries are sometimes too complex and often involve multiple authorities, which may ultimately lead to inefficiencies and gaps. The report also highlights that the type and focus of the checks performed vary significantly between EU countries (see Figure 2 below). To make things worse, fines are not always dissuasive, effective or proportionate.

National authorities also face a number of problems when checking the online sale of food products. For instance, they can only impose sanctions on food companies that are registered in their country. For websites registered in other EU countries, they can report the issue using the Commission's [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed](#). Regarding websites outside the EU, it is almost impossible for authorities to control online retail.

Figure 2 – Official food labelling controls carried out by EU countries, 2022, by type (%)



Source: European Court of Auditors, [Special report 23/2024: Food labelling in the EU](#), 2024.

(De)harmonisation of rules

In the absence of EU rules, some EU countries have enacted [national legislation](#) requiring mandatory origin labelling for specific categories of foods, mostly on a 2-year trial basis. Seven countries – Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Finland – have notified national measures on country-of-origin indication of milk and milk as an ingredient, and two – France and Finland – on meat as an ingredient. In its 2024 [report](#) on food labelling, the European Court of Auditors criticises the proliferation of such initiatives, which ultimately leads to 'unequal consumer access' to some food-related information across the EU.

In 2018, Italy introduced an [experimental regime](#)¹⁰ requiring producers to specify the origin of the tomatoes used in tomato sauce and the origin of the wheat used in pasta.

The latest change to national legislation concerns Germany, which requires retailers to show the origin of fresh and frozen pork, poultry and lamb, even when these are sold in butchers' shops and delicatessens without pre-packaging. The new rules, in force since 1 February 2024, supplement the existing EU rules, which only require country-of-origin labelling on pre-packaged meat.

In 2020, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) [ruled](#) that the EU's harmonised framework for food labelling 'does not preclude Member States from adopting measures providing for additional mandatory particulars regarding the origin or provenance.' Nonetheless, those national measures need to be justified on one or several grounds, such as the protection of public health or the protection of consumers. Importantly, their adoption is possible only if there is a proven link between certain qualities of the foods concerned and their origin or provenance.

The decision followed a request by the French Conseil d'État – France's highest administrative court – asking the ECJ to rule on a case lodged by the multinational dairy corporation Lactalis. Lactalis sought annulment of the French government's decree requiring that all pre-packaged foods containing dairy or meat list on their labels the country of origin. The decree further established that only those products containing 100 % meat or dairy produced in France could be labelled as a product of France. In March 2021, the Conseil d'État [annulled the provisions](#) of the decree.

While the annulment was criticised both by French [milk producers](#) and [consumer organisations](#), [Lactalis](#) welcomed the ruling, stating that its legal challenge was 'motivated by the desire not to undermine the free movement of goods through a proliferation of origin decrees in Europe', which would ultimately risk impacting exports of French dairy products.

European Parliament contribution

In April 2024, the [European Parliament](#) and the Council adopted a much-awaited [proposal](#) revising the EU marketing standards for certain '[breakfast directives](#)'. Changes, to be in force from 14 June 2026, include introducing stricter country-of-origin labelling for honey.

The proposal notably makes it compulsory to indicate clearly, close to the product name, the honey's country (or countries) of origin, 'in descending order of their share in weight, together with the percentage that each one represents'.

However, EU countries would have the flexibility to enforce this obligation for the four largest shares only when they account for more than 50 % of the blend. Should this not be the case, the percentages for all countries of origin would have to be indicated.

To ensure flexibility, packs under 30 g could indicate the names of the countries of origin by their international two-letter ISO codes, as per Parliament's proposal (the Commission had requested this measure for packs under 25 g).

In contrast, MEPs were unable to convince the Council to agree to country-of-origin labelling for products other than honey – that is, the fruit in juice, jams and marmalades, and the sugar in jams and marmalades.

EU countries have expressed concerns about the potential administrative burden this may impose on food companies and the additional costs it could create for consumers, especially because there has been no impact assessment conducted on these issues. Instead, the Commission has to prepare a report within 36 months of the entry into force of the directive – that is, around spring 2027 – assessing the feasibility of introducing a rule making it compulsory to label the country of origin of the fruit used. If appropriate, this report would be accompanied by a legislative proposal.

Recent developments in the Council

EU farm ministers proved divided over the need to roll out mandatory country-of-origin labelling to more foods, in a discussion at the 27 May Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting. Some ministers highlighted the need to respond to a long-standing consumer demand for more information. Others, however, feared its impact on prices and free trade. The German and Austrian delegations presented a [note](#) also signed by the Estonian, French, Portuguese and Finnish delegations, calling on the incoming European Commission 'to swiftly present a legislative proposal for an expansion of mandatory EU-wide country-of-origin labelling for foodstuffs' since, the text reads, 'the expansion of mandatory EU-wide origin labelling is of great importance to consumers and farmers'.

The paper argues that recent experimental schemes with country-of-origin labelling, introduced by national governments and private organisations, have 'shown that the market reacts well to consistent labelling of origin. This will particularly help to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain and contribute to a fairer income'. The note further claims that origin labelling can enable consumers 'to make sustainable purchasing decisions, e.g. by choosing foods with a shorter distance of transport and shorter supply chains'.

The then EU Commissioner for financial services Mairead McGuinness, who replaced her colleague Janusz Wojciechowski in the origin labelling debate, highlighted that 'origin labelling is a sensitive topic and Member States and stakeholders have strong, and at times divergent views'. While the Commissioner indicated that the Commission services were still gathering evidence and data, 'particularly on the impacts of food labelling on food businesses, consumer prices and the internal market', she also clarified that 'it is the next Commission – the incoming Commission – who would decide on whether there should be a proposal'.

Civil society expectations

In July 2024, the European Commission formally registered a [European citizens initiative](#) (ECI) – an EU-wide [petition](#) – aimed at extending country-of-origin labelling to all foods and imposing the same environmental, health and labour standards on producers outside the EU as those within.

The initiative '[Stop Fake Food: Origin on Label](#)' pleads for 'European consumers to have access to transparent information about the food they buy and for their expectations in terms of high quality and sustainability standards to be met'. It further calls on the Commission to extend country-of-origin labelling requirements to all food products, 'whether packaged or served in out-of-home catering establishments', such as school canteens and restaurants and 'avoid further confusing consumers with the use of general geographical references (EU, non-EU, or EU and non-EU)'.

More specifically, the ECI urges the Commission to propose a revision of both the provenance rules in the FIC Regulation and the Union Customs Code's last processing criterion, under which the origin of food and other goods is considered to be 'the country or territory where they underwent their last, substantial, economically justified processing or working'. The ECI argues this means that a product's origin as indicated on the label is usually the country where the processing establishment is located, unless producers are also required to indicate the provenance of the agricultural products used.

The ECI further claims that 'Unclear and perhaps intentionally ambiguous indications of origin provide opportunities for phenomena such as misleading geographical identity, false product identity and misrepresentation of products, and facilitate counterfeiting'. The petition thus ascertains that it is 'necessary to establish, transparently and unambiguously, that the origin of a food product corresponds to the country of provenance of the agricultural product (where it was grown, reared or fished) and the place where it was processed, both of which (if different) must be indicated on the label or in other forms of information for consumers (menus, signs, etc.)'.

Should the ECI receive at least **one million** signatures within **a year** – that is by 21 September 2025 – in at least **seven EU countries**, the Commission will have to explain what action (if any) it will propose in response to the initiative, and its reasons for taking (or not taking) further action.

Outlook

The Commission has been under increasing pressure to extend mandatory country-of-origin labelling to a greater range of food products – such as milk in dairy products or the meat used as the primary ingredient of processed foods – including by the [European Court of Auditors](#), which recently invited the executive to address outstanding issues relating to origin labelling by 2027. In its [replies](#) to the Court's recommendations, the Commission accepted to do so.

While consumer groups favour as much information as possible, the food industry is reluctant as this can increase labelling costs and limit a company's flexibility in sourcing ingredients, in particular resorting to quick changes in response to price or supply fluctuations.

When surveyed consumers tend to declare that they wish to know more about the origin of the food products they buy. However, the big question is whether they are prepared to pay more for that information. The [evidence from research](#) is inconclusive and suggests that with the hassle, time pressure, and information overload of everyday shopping, consumers tend to pay less attention to country-of-origin information than they would like to.

[Practitioners](#) argue that EU rules requiring the mandatory indication of origin for food products should be kept to a minimum and be applied only when a clear link can be established between the country of origin of a given food and its characteristics or where a clear EU public policy interest exists. In addition, introducing a general sustainable labelling framework covering the broader environmental impact of food would arguably make it possible to inform consumers about the sustainability of their choices more easily rather than by relying on the origin criterion alone.

The Commission therefore needs to strike the right balance between the various interests at stake and to proceed cautiously with the much-awaited reform, not least since the evidence from research on consumer behaviour and food choices is inconclusive and the effects of mandatory country-of-origin labelling on trade patterns remain disputed.

Finding a solution would be as easy as squaring the circle, in particular given that [food inflation](#) rose to a historic peak of around 15 % in March 2023 and the Commission would be reluctant to add to the problem with additional labelling requirements. In the meantime, an intense debate can be expected, much like the one already taking place around the possible introduction of a harmonised EU-wide front-of-pack nutrition label,¹¹ on which there has been no news either.

FURTHER READING

Katsarova, I., [Revision of EU marketing standards breakfast directives](#), EPRS, European Parliament, March 2024.

Thøgersen, J., '[How does origin labelling on food packaging influence consumer product evaluation and choices?](#)', *Food Policy*, Vol. 119, August 2023.

Origin labelling mentioned during Commissioners' hearings

In November 2024, replying to additional written questions in the follow-up to his confirmation hearing, the [Commissioner-designate](#) for Health and Animal welfare, Olivér Várhelyi, stated that he would prioritise addressing existing consumer demands for extended country-of-origin labelling, while ensuring the smooth functioning of the internal market, without committing to a new Commission proposal.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ For instance, milk in glass packaging is [perceived](#) as healthier than milk packaged in a carton, irrespective of its origin.
- ² However, in general, consumers have rather [negative associations](#) with food processing.
- ³ In February 2024, the Commission published its first monthly [report on agri-food suspicions](#), thus improving consumer protection from deceptive practices along the agri-food chain.
- ⁴ Experts argue that when only looking at transportation, 'localness' can be a poor proxy to [determining a product's carbon footprint](#) as, for example, cargo ships or trains can exploit economies of scale and be relatively less polluting over longer distances than small trucks over shorter distances. Similarly, if consumers buy from individual local producers, their [carbon emissions](#) can be greater than the emissions from the systems of large-scale suppliers. In short, it seems to be [impossible to state](#) that because of their localness, local food systems produce lower emissions compared to conventional ones.
- ⁵ For fruit and vegetables, this requirement is set in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1308/2013](#) on a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Article 76); for fishery products in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1379/2013](#); for honey in [Directive 2014/63/EU](#); for olive oil in [Regulation No 29/2012/EU](#), and for eggs in [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 589/2008](#) and in [Commission Directive 2002/4/EC](#).
- ⁶ [Regulation \(EC\) No 1760/2000](#) establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products.
- ⁷ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1337/2013](#) laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 as regards the indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry.
- ⁸ For example, for apples the regulation indicates that: 'In the case of a mixture of distinctly different varieties of apples of different origins, the indication of each country of origin shall appear next to the name of the variety concerned'.
- ⁹ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1151/2012](#) on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs.
- ¹⁰ The regime lasted from February 2018 to December 2023.
- ¹¹ An ECI calling for the [Nutri-Score](#) to be the EU front-of-pack nutrition label, was withdrawn after the Commission pledged to table a proposal for a mandatory EU label in its May 2020 ['farm to fork' strategy](#). However, as with various other expected proposals on the 'fork' side of the strategy, it [did not materialise](#).

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