

Court of Auditors report on food labelling

Published by AGRINFO on 04 Dec 2024

European Court of Auditors Report: [Food labelling in the EU: Consumers can get lost in the maze of labels](#)

Findings of the review

The European Court of Auditors, the body that reviews EU spending, has published a report on food labelling.

The report highlights significant gaps in the EU's food labelling and control frameworks. Under current EU regulations, the European Commission has only taken action on four out of 11 key labelling topics, leaving several issues – including botanical claims, nutrient profiles, and nutrient and allergen labelling – either incomplete or unaddressed.

The report also points out that misleading information, including “clean” labels (e.g. advertising “antibiotic-free”) and unsubstantiated environmental claims, is widespread, contributing to consumers’ confusion. Despite EU rules requiring clear labelling, monitoring systems are inadequate with inconsistent enforcement across Member States, particularly in online retail and for voluntary labels like nutrition and health claims.

The Court of Auditors recommends that the Commission should urgently address these gaps, enhance consumer understanding, and improve the effectiveness of controls, especially for online sales and voluntary labels. It also calls for a more systematic approach to monitoring consumers’ understanding of food labels.

Timeline

The Court of Auditors asks the Commission to implement the recommendations in the report by 2027.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Disclaimer: Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole

THE LATEST ON EU AGRI-FOOD POLICIES IMPACTING LOW-INCOME & MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.