Reports on non-compliance with EU food law and agri-food fraud: March 2026

Published by AGRINFO on 08 May 2026

Latest EU overview of food found not to comply with EU law

European Commission: March 2026 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

Update

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that are not compliant with European Union (EU) food law. The March 2026 report includes notifications concerning the following 25 AGRINFO partner countries: **Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia** (via Viet Nam)**, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam**.

These monthly overviews highlight ongoing and emerging risks of non-compliance that help agri-food exporters and competent authorities in non-EU countries to identify, monitor, and address risks that may affect trade. These non-compliances are not confirmed fraud cases, but they contribute to alerting and triggering investigations by competent authorities of EU Member States.

Impacted products

Anchovies, apple juice, apricots, bananas, beef, biscuits, caviar, chilli peppers, chocolates, cinnamon, cocoa butter, cod fillets, coffee creamer, eggs, figs, food supplements, ghee, herbal honey paste, juniper berries, meat products, noodles, palm oil, Pangasius, peaches, pepper, peppers, prunes), pumpkin, raisins, rice (jasmine), salt, shrimps, soyabean meal, spirit drinks (made from rice), sweets, tea, toffee paste, turmeric extract, wax coating (for limes), xanthan gum

Latest notifications

The March 2026 report includes notifications involving the following 25 AGRINFO partner countries:

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Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia (via Viet Nam), China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Peru, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

These notifications concern:

- product and record tampering (Table 1)
- unauthorised foods, ingredients and origins, and residues not compliant with maximum residue levels (MRLs) (Table 2).

This report should be read in conjunction with RASFF notifications in March 2026. RASFF notifications that relate purely to consumer risk with no suspicion of fraud are not included in this report.

Timeline

These reports are issued every month.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities in countries that are included in these monthly overviews should pay attention to any non-compliances identified in the reports. It is particularly important that the producers/export companies concerned are informed as soon as possible so that they can take action and prevent a recurrence. These incidents also potentially indicate a more widespread problem that may require a coordinated response by the food sector in the country concerned.

Background

These monthly reports compile information notified to the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed Network (RASFF), Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network (AAC), and Agri-Food Fraud Network (FFN). The reports also include non-compliances with EU rules that do not present a risk but have triggered investigations by the competent authorities of individual importing EU Member States.

Resources

European Commission:

- Monthly reports on EU Agri-Food Fraud suspicions

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- RASFF Window

Regulation 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing entry into the EU of certain goods from third countries

Regulation 2019/1873 on the procedures at border control posts for a coordinated performance by competent authorities of intensified official controls on products of animal origin, germinal products, animal by-products and composite products

Sources

European Commission: March 2026 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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Table & Figures

Table 1
Product and record tampering

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Afghanistan	Figs (dried)	Sulfites (E 220–E 228), misleading claim ("no additives or preservatives")	Undeclared enhancement
	Raisins	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	
Albania	Anchovy fillets in sunflower oil	Counterfeit	Intellectual property rights
Argentina	Beef	Progesterone	Unapproved enhancement
	Sweets	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	
Brazil	Wax coating (for limes)	Ammonium hydroxide (E 527), fatty acid salts (E 470)	Unapproved enhancement
Cambodia via Viet Nam	Chilli peppers (fresh)	Falsification of origin, forgery of plant health passports, presence of multiple residues of pesticides above maximum residue levels (MRLs)	Record tampering
China	Biscuits	Higher content of sugar, lower content of starch than declared	Product-related dates, records, and information
	Cod fillets (*Theragra chalcogramma*) (frozen in glaze)	Water addition	Adulteration (ingredient substitution)
	Peaches (canned)	Erythorbic acid (E 315)	Unapproved enhancement
	Spirit drinks (made from rice)	Marketed as wine, lower content of alcohol than declared	Product-related dates, records, and information
	Sweets	Amaranth (E 123), Allura Red AC (E 129), Brilliant Blue FCF (E 133), higher sugar content than declared	Undeclared enhancement
	Xanthan gum (E 415)	Chlorate	Unapproved enhancement
Colombia	Sweets	Titanium dioxide (E 171)	Unapproved enhancement
Côte d'Ivoire	Cocoa butter	Inconsistent with "100% cocoa butter" claim	Product-related dates, records, and information
Ecuador	Palm oil	Misleading energy value labelling (higher fat content)	Product-related dates, records, and information
	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) (frozen in glaze)	Water addition, "processed" with undeclared salt	Adulteration (substitution)
Iran	Raisins	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared enhancement
Lebanon	Cinnamon, pepper, turmeric (ground)	Ethylene oxide	Unapproved enhancement
North Macedonia	Berries (juniper)	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Not compliant with EU maximum levels (MLs)
Serbia	Prunes (dried)	Sorbic acid (E 200)	Not compliant with EU MLs
Tajikistan	Apricots	Sulfur dioxide (E 220), absence of labelling on one part of consignment	Undeclared enhancement
Türkiye	Pickles	Sulfur dioxide (E 220)	Undeclared enhancement
	Salt ("iodine-free")	Iodine (≥0.3 mg/kg)	Product attribute(s) claims
Viet Nam	Pangasius fillets (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) (frozen in glaze)	Water addition, lower net weight than declared	Adulteration (substitution)
	Pangasius fillets (*Pangasius hypophthalmus*) (frozen)	Irradiation	Unapproved enhancement
	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) (frozen, frozen in glaze)	Water addition, higher content of water than declared	Adulteration (substitution)
	Soft drinks	Acesulfame K (E 950)	Unapproved enhancement

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Source: based on March 2026 Report on EU Agri-Food Fraud Suspicions

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Table 2
Unauthorised foods, ingredients, origins, and residues not compliant with MRLs

Country	Products	Issue	Classification
Afghanistan	Food products	Absence of labelling	Traceability defects
Argentina	Soyabean meal	Genetically modified organism (GMO) (p35S, bar)	Not authorised in EU
Bangladesh	Shrimps (*Penaeus monodon*) (frozen with added water)	Malachite Green, Leucomalachite Green	Not compliant with EU maximum residue levels (MRLs)
China	Caviar	Illegal import	Smuggling
	Food supplements	*Cordyceps militaris*	Not authorised in EU
	Food supplements (e-marketed)	Turkesterone, *Tribulus terrestris*	
	Kitchenware	Improper declaration of conformity	Implicit claim violation
	Noodles (organic)	GMO (Cry1Ab/Ac)	Not authorised in EU
Ecuador	Bananas (organic)	Chlorpyrifos	Not approved in EU
Egypt	Sweets	Milk ingredients, illegal import	Smuggling
India	*Curcuma*	Plant extract from turmeric rhizomes	Not authorised in EU
	Ghee	Milk ingredients, illegal import	Smuggling
	Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) (frozen)	Chloramphenicol	Not compliant with EU MRLs
	Shrimps (*Penaeus monodon*) (frozen)	Leucomalachite Green, Crystal Violet	
Iran	Snacks	Milk ingredients, illegal import, traceability defects (missing importer address)	Smuggling
Lebanon	Coffee creamer	Milk ingredients, illegal import	Smuggling
Malaysia	Soft drinks	Milk ingredients, illegal import, higher content of sugar than declared	Smuggling
Moldova	Food products	Attempt to illegally import, absence of labelling, transport temperature	Smuggling
	Meat products		
Peru	Bananas (organic)	Chlorpyrifos	Not approved in EU
Thailand	Food supplements	Sildenafil	Not authorised in EU
Türkiye	Biscuits	Butter and egg ingredients, attempt to illegally import	Smuggling
	Chocolates	Sildenafil, tadalafil	Not authorised in EU
	Herbal honey paste (e-marketed)	Sildenafil	Not authorised in EU
	Peppers (pickled)	Traceability defect (absence of invoice)	Smuggling
	Soft drinks	Sildenafil	Not authorised in EU
	Tea	*Althea rosea*, *Myrtus communis*, Titanium Dioxide (E 171), Ponceau 4R/Cochineal Red A (E 124)	Not authorised in EU
	Toffee paste	Sildenafil	Not authorised in EU
Ukraine	Apple juice concentrate	Use of bulk transport vehicles not limited exclusively to food products	Implicit claim violations
	Eggs	Doxycycline (anti-coccicidal agent not authorised for laying hens)	Not compliant with EU MRLs
Uzbekistan	Pumpkin cubes (dried)	Missing name, address of operator	Traceability defect
Viet Nam	Rice (jasmine)	No EU operator on label, improper health certificate	Traceability defects

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