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

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

## Latest notifications

The European Commission publishes monthly overviews of foods that do not comply with European Union (EU) food law, including potentially fraudulent practices that are identified and reported by EU Member State authorities. The Commission compiles these overviews of non-compliance based on information from the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed Network (RASFF), Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network (AAC), and Agri-Food Fraud Network (FFN). These monthly overviews help agri-food exporters and competent authorities in non-EU countries to monitor and address risks that may affect trade. Those non-compliances are not confirmed fraud cases, but they contribute to alerting and triggering investigations by competent authorities of EU Member States.

The March 2026 report includes notifications involving the following 25 AGRINFO partner countries: **Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cambodia** (via Viet Nam)**, 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.


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## 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.

## Timeline

These reports are issued every month.

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.


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## Tables & 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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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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