# Simplification of EU food and feed safety rules

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Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations 999/2001, 1829/2003, 1831/2003, 852/2004, 853/2004, 396/2005, 1099/2009 1107/2009, 528/2012, 2017/625 as regards the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements

## What is changing and why?

The European Commission proposes to simplify food and feed safety rules in the following areas.

- Pesticides: allowing pesticide approvals and renewals for an unlimited duration (rather than the current 10-year limit), to allow authorities to focus resources on the approval of new biopesticides.
- Pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs): aligning the rules that apply to imported products with the rules that apply to production within the European Union (EU). MRLs would be reduced to 0.01 mg/kg on pesticides that are not allowed within the EU where they are particularly hazardous for public health or the environment. The rules on transition periods will be clarified to allow products to be sold up to the end of their shelf-life, to avoid waste and economic loss.
- Biocidal products: allowing active substances in biocides to be approved for an unlimited period of time, to allow greater focus on new active substances.
- Feed additives: simplifying the rules on modifying and renewing authorisations, and allowing more flexibility in labelling requirements, including digital labelling.
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance: enabling easier adoption of new measures in response to evolving scientific knowledge, international standards, and the epidemiological situation.
- Official checks of plant consignments at border control posts: allowing border control posts to release compliant plant products while awaiting controls of other parts of a consignment.
- Fermentation products manufactured using genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs): clarifying that these products do not require authorisation under the GMO Regulation provided certain conditions are met.

The aim is to reduce the burdens on operators and administrators.


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## Actions

The World Trade Organization consultation (G/SPS/N/EU/911) closed on 30 March 2026; the EU's Have your say consultation closed on 12 June 2026.

Stakeholders wishing to respond to the EU must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to Create an EU login account, then register their organisation on the EU Transparency register.

## Timeline

This proposal has entered a process of discussion and adoption by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament, a process that can take up to 2 years.

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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