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Welcome to Issue 64 of AGRINFO UPDATE. We wish all our readers a happy and peaceful 2026.

This issue opens with an overview of some new European Union (EU) rules that will apply in 2026. We highlight important dates to help avoid any disruption to trade. We also report on opportunities to give feedback to the World Trade Organization, and to share information with the European Food Safety Authority. Finally, this issue highlights EU proposals to simplify some existing rules covering deforestation, food and feed safety, pesticides, plant health, feed additives, and biotechnology. Other simplification proposals will be outlined in Update 65, which we will send to you next week.

LATEST

Upcoming in 2026



New Year Regulatory Overview

Several Regulations with a transitional period from 3 months to 2 years will enter into application in 2026

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New Regulations or policies under development



Packaging

Single-use plastic packaging study on fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs: call for information. Feedback to European Food Safety Authority by **31 January 2026**

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Changes notified to World Trade Organization

Send feedback via your National SPS/TBT notification authority within the 60-day time limit



Pesticide MRLs

EU proposes to amend maximum residue levels for the following substances:

- [1,4-dimethylnaphthalene](#) on all plant products except potatoes
- [chlormequat](#) on animal products
- [triclopyr](#) on certain products, with particular impact on citrus fruits
- [metribuzin](#) on cassava roots/manioc, land cresses, and olives (with separate MRLs for metribuzin-DADK)

Feedback to WTO by **1 February 2026**

European Commission proposals to simplify existing rules



Deforestation

EU postpones application of EU Deforestation Regulation until **30 December 2026**

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Food and feed safety

EU proposes simplified food and feed safety rules to reduce costs and burdens for operators and authorities

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Pesticides

European Commission proposes changes to rules on setting maximum residue levels on imported products, and on approving new pesticides

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Plant health controls

European Commission proposes to allow border control posts to split consignments of plant products for speedier release

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Biotechnologies

European Commission proposes to clarify which rules apply to foods produced using genetically modified micro-organisms

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Feed additives

European Commission proposes to simplify feed additive authorisation process and introduce digital labelling

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AGRINFO provides a regular information service keeping you up to date on evolving EU policies, regulations, and standards that have potential impacts on agricultural value chains in low- and middle-income countries. This email contains links to our website at www.agrinfo.eu, where we give clear summaries about recent and upcoming changes, and actions that companies or authorities need to take to meet the new rules. If you need more information, eligible stakeholders in AGRINFO [target countries](#) can contact us via the [AGRINFO Helpdesk](#).



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AGRINFO keeps you up-to-date on evolving EU policies, regulations and standards impacting agri-food trade. It provides clear summaries for trade partners in low- and middle-income countries about the “what, why and when” of recent and upcoming changes, and actions needed to adjust to new rules.

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