

## Information Guide



## Food Safety

**A guide to the European Union’s Food Safety policy, with hyperlinks to sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites**

### Contents

Introduction.....	2
Background and legal basis.....	2
White Paper on Food Safety.....	3
Food Hygiene Package .....	4
Plastics.....	4
Animal and plant protection .....	5
Labelling, health claims, novel foods.....	5
European Food Safety Authority .....	7
Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health .....	9
Rapid Alert System .....	10
Enlargement .....	10
Information sources in the ESO database .....	11
Further information sources on the internet .....	11

## Introduction

The EU integrated approach to food safety aims to assure a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health within the European Union through coherent farm-to-table measures and adequate monitoring, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market.

From: DG Health and Consumers [mission statement](#).

## Background and legal basis

The agricultural and food sectors are of major significance for the European economy and consumers have become more demanding about the safety and quality of their food. Food-related crises in recent years have made the European Commission aware of the need for stricter standards and controls across the entire food chain.

In particular, it was the BSE crisis and its effect on consumer confidence in the safety of food during the 1990s that caused increasing emphasis to be placed on health and food safety in the EU, but other issues have also exercised consumers, including GM food and feed, food additives, foot and mouth disease, and avian influenza ('bird flu').

As a result, an EU food strategy has developed which now comprises three main elements: legislation on the safety of food and feed, scientific advice, and enforcement and control (see [General Food Law - principles](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#) and Europa [Food safety](#) page).

The European Commission's [Directorate-General for Health and Consumers](#) is responsible for a number of issues: consumer affairs, public health, animal health and welfare, plant health and [food safety](#).

For food safety, the goals of the DG (as listed in its [mission statement](#)) are to:

- assure effective control systems and evaluate compliance with EU standards in the food safety and quality, animal health, animal welfare, animal nutrition and plant health sectors within the EU and in third countries in relation to their exports to the EU;
- manage international relations with third countries and international organisations concerning food safety, animal health, animal welfare, animal nutrition and plant health;
- manage relations with the European Food Safety Authority ([EFSA](#)) and ensure science-based risk management.

The DG is also responsible for the safety of animal feed and for animal health in so far as it affects food, whether it is the safety of food or the security of food supply. The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom in February 2001 was of concern because of its implications for the supply of food and for the economic effect on related and rural industries.

The main role of the [Food and Veterinary Office](#) (FVO) based in Grange, Ireland is to verify that EU countries and countries exporting food to the EU observe the rules. It promotes effective control systems in the food safety and quality, veterinary and plant health sectors and carries out general audits of the national control plans. Imported food and feed must comply with or at least be equivalent to standards that prevail within the EU.

The [European Food Safety Authority](#) and the [Standing Committee for Plants, Animals, Food and Feed](#) were established by the General Food Law - [Regulation 178/2002](#).

## Legal basis

There is no explicit reference to food safety in either the [Treaty on European Union](#) (TEU) or the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (TFEU). Article 4(2)(f) of the TFEU identifies consumer protection as an area where competence is shared between the EU and the Member States and Article 12 requires that consumer protection requirements are taken into account in defining and implementing EU policies and activities. Further provisions on consumer protection are set out in Article 169 (Title XV).

## White Paper on Food Safety

A 'Green Paper on the general principles of food law in the European Union' ([COM\(97\)176](#), text courtesy of Archive of European Integration) was adopted by the Commission in April 1997 and was followed in January 2000 by a 'White Paper on Food Safety' ([COM\(1999\)719](#)) in which the Commission set out proposals for creating a European Food Safety Authority and for:

a wide range of other measures to improve and bring coherence to the corpus of legislation covering all aspects of food products from "farm to table".

Annexed to the White Paper was an 84-point Action Plan on food safety. In October 2000, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution supporting the Commission's White Paper, and in particular the creation of the EFSA.

The General Food Law Regulation ([Regulation 178/2002](#)) was adopted in January 2002. As well as setting up the EFSA, it introduced the concept of 'traceability' (ensuring that all foodstuffs, animal feed and feed ingredients can be traced right through the food chain, with each business involved being able to identify its suppliers and which businesses it in turn supplied) and reinforced the rapid alert system used to respond to food and/or feed safety scares.

The General Food Law was to be implemented by Member States no later than 1 January 2007 (see DG Health and Consumers page on [General Food Law](#)).

One of the pieces of legislation it introduced was [Regulation 882/2004](#) on official food and feed controls, which amongst other things allows the European Commission to develop EU-level training programmes on food safety (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#) and [Feed and Food Controls](#) pages). The Commission adopted a Report on the application of the Regulation on 8 July 2009 as [COM\(2009\)334](#).

In September 2006, the Commission issued a Communication on 'Better training for safer food' ([COM\(2006\)519](#)). The first Annual Report on the Better Training for Safer Food initiative was subsequently published in May 2007 (see [IP/07/703](#), [MEMO/07/204](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#) and the [Better Training for Safer Food](#) website).

Actions set out in [Commission Decision 2009/375/EC](#) of 8 May 2009 'on the financing of a working programme for 2009 on training tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health' aimed to develop, organise and deliver training courses and workshops or seminars in the EU and beyond in order to ensure that personnel performing official controls are adequately trained.

On 11 November 2010, the Commission adopted the Staff Working Document 'Challenges and strategies for the Better Training for Safer Food programme' ([SEC\(2010\)1394](#)), setting out the main challenges facing the initiative and identifying possible actions to address them (see also Press Release [MEMO/11/798](#), 18 November 2011, marking the fifth anniversary of Better Training for Safer Food).

## Food Hygiene Package

Prior to the implementation of the General Food Law Regulation, a wide-ranging 'Food Hygiene Package' entered into force on 1 January 2006. According to Press Release [IP/05/1689](#), the package aims to cover every point in the food chain, ensuring that:

all food and feed operators, from farmers and processors to retailers and caterers, will have primary responsibility for ensuring that food put on the EU market meets the required safety standards

The package comprises the following acts (all of which were published in Official Journal [L226](#), 25 June 2004; see also Press Release [MEMO/05/498](#)):

- [Regulation 852/2004](#) 'on the hygiene of foodstuffs' (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#))
- [Regulation \(EC\) 853/2004](#) 'laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin' (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#))
- [Regulation \(EC\) 854/2004](#) 'laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption' (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#))

A Report on the implementation of the hygiene package was adopted by the Commission on 28 July 2009 as [COM\(2009\)403](#). It concluded that:

Member States and food business operators have indicated that they are generally satisfied with the hygiene Regulations and that they have made good progress in adjusting to them. There is broad support for the principles introduced by the Regulations. Member States consider that the legislation requires slight adjustments but not a fundamental overhaul.

The 20 November 2009 Agriculture and Fisheries Council adopted [Conclusions](#) on the Report, expressing the Council's general satisfaction with the package and confirming that it saw no need for a fundamental overhaul.

You can find more information in ESO on food hygiene by clicking [here](#).

## Plastics

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 10/2011](#) of 14 January 2011 'on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food' establishes specific requirements for the manufacture and marketing of plastic materials and articles which are:

- intended to come into contact with food, or
- already in contact with food, or
- which can reasonably be expected to come into contact with food

The Regulation, which applies from 1 May 2011, covers materials and articles which are placed on the EU market and fall under the following categories:

- a) materials and articles and parts thereof consisting exclusively of plastics
- b) plastic multi-layer materials and articles held together by adhesives or by other means
- c) materials and articles referred to in points a) or b) that are printed and/or covered by a coating
- d) plastic layers or plastic coatings, forming gaskets in caps and closures, that together with those caps and closures compose a set of two or more layers of different types of materials

e) plastic layers in multi-material multi-layer materials and articles.

## **Animal and plant protection**

On 19 September 2007, the Commission presented a new Community Animal Health Strategy, spanning 2007-2013. The Strategy focuses on precautionary measures, disease surveillance, controls and research, in order to reduce the incidence of animal disease and to minimise the impact of any outbreaks which do occur (see Press Releases [IP/07/1357](#) and [MEMO/07/365](#) and [Animal Health Strategy](#) page).

An associated 'Action Plan for the implementation of the EU Animal Health Strategy' ([COM\(2008\)545](#)) was presented in September 2008 (see also [MEMO/08/557](#) and the [Animal Health Policy Development](#) page, and [PreLex Dossier](#)).

A new Regulation on pesticide residues entered into force on 1 September 2008. Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou said (see Press Release [IP/08/1282](#)) that the Regulation represented:

a milestone in our effort to ensure that food in Europe is safe. The new rules apply the principle that food produced or imported in one Member State must be safe for consumers in all of them. They ensure that pesticide residues in food are as low as possible and have no harmful effect on our citizens.

The European Food Safety Authority's 2008 Annual Report on Pesticide Residues (published in July 2010) showed that 96.5% of the samples analysed complied with the maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides permitted for food products in the EU (see [Report](#) page and [EFSA news item](#)). The [Annual Report for 2010](#), published in March 2013, showed that compliance with MRLs in 2010 was 98.4%.

[Regulation \(EC\) 1107/2009](#) 'concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market' was adopted on 21 October 2009 (see Press Releases [IP/09/47](#) and [MEMO/09/8](#), and [Summaries of EU legislation](#)).

## **Labelling, health claims, novel foods**

[Regulation 1924/2006](#) on nutrition and health claims made on foods was published in December 2006 and took effect from July 2007 (see [Health & Nutrition Claims](#) page). A list of 222 health claims approved for use on foods under Article 13(3) of the Regulation was set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 432/2012 of 16 May 2012 (see also Press Release [IP/12/479](#)).

[Regulation 1925/2006](#) on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods was published at the same time and was also applicable from July 2007 (see [Regulation 108/2008](#) amending it, and also the [Addition of Vitamins & Minerals](#) page).

At the end of January 2008, the Commission adopted a proposal for a 'Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers' ([COM\(2008\)40](#)). If adopted, the Regulation would help consumers by making food labels more legible and understandable. Changes would include requiring pre-packaged food to display key nutritional information on the front of the package, and also extending requirements for allergen labelling to non pre-packed food, including food sold in restaurants and other catering establishments (see Press Release [IP/08/112](#)). On 7 December 2010, the Council reached political agreement on the draft Regulation (Press Release [17391/10](#)) and subsequently adopted its first reading position on 21 February 2011 (Press Release [6238/11](#)). On 19 April, Parliament's Environment Committee supported a report calling for food labels to be simpler and clearer and to provide information on ingredients such as trans fats and allergens (Press

Release [20110415STO17909](#)). [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) 'on the provision of food information to consumers' was subsequently adopted on 25 October 2011.

Also published in January 2008 was a draft Regulation on novel foods ([COM\(2007\)872](#)), intended to enable safe, innovative foods to reach the EU market more quickly and to make special provisions for foods not traditionally sold in the EU, but which have a safe history of use in third countries (see Press Releases [IP/08/37](#) and [MEMO/08/17](#); check progress via [PreLex Dossier](#)). On 29 March 2011, both Council and Parliament announced that, after more than three years of negotiations, they had failed to agree the new legislation (see Press Releases [8308/11](#) and [20110324STO16430](#), and [Prelex Dossier](#)). The existing provisions set out in [Regulation \(EC\) 258/97](#) therefore remain in force (see also [Novel Food](#) page; you can find more information in ESO on food hygiene by clicking [here](#)).

In October 2008, a Eurobarometer survey showed EU citizens to be sceptical about cloning animals for food production, with 84% of respondents concerned that not enough is known about the long-term health and safety effects of using cloned animals for food (see Press Release [IP/08/1478](#)). An update on the state of play of animal health and welfare and environmental impact of animals derived from SCNT cloning and their offspring, and food safety of products obtained from those animals was published in the [EFSA Journal](#) on 5 July 2012.

On 21 January 2009, [Commission Regulation 41/2009](#) was published, 'concerning the composition and labelling of foodstuffs suitable for people intolerant to gluten', which will apply from January 2012.

On 23 February 2010, members of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee expressed support for a new quality logo for agricultural goods entirely produced in the EU. MEPs argued that such a logo would allow producers to display their commitment to quality and food safety (see Press Release [20100219STO69255](#)).

The aim of [Regulation \(EU\) 1151/2012](#) of 21 November 2012 'on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs' is:

to help producers of agricultural products and foodstuffs to communicate the product characteristics and farming attributes of those products and foodstuffs to buyers and consumers, thereby ensuring:

- (a) fair competition for farmers and producers of agricultural products and foodstuffs having value-adding characteristics and attributes;
- (b) the availability to consumers of reliable information pertaining to such products;
- (c) respect for intellectual property rights; and
- (d) the integrity of the internal market.

[Commission Regulation \(EU\) 271/2010](#), published on 31 March 2010, set out new rules on the use of the Union's organic production logo. Applicable from 1 July 2010, the Regulation is intended to promote organic farming and improve consumer protection (see [Organic logo and labelling](#) page). The 'Euro-Leaf' logo is obligatory on pre-packaged organic food products that have been produced in any EU Member State and which meet the necessary standards (see Press Release [IP/10/861](#)). From 1 July 2012, the organic logo is obligatory on all pre-packaged organic food products produced in EU Member States which meet the necessary standards, but is optional for non-packed and imported organic products (Press Release [IP/12/706](#)).

On 20 June 2011, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation 'on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes' ([COM\(2011\)](#)

[353](#)). It seeks to establish compositional and information requirements for specific categories of food: infant formula and follow-on formula; processed cereal-based food and baby food for infants and young children; and food for special medical purposes. It also provides rules to establish and update an EU list of vitamins, minerals and other substances that can be added to those foodstuffs (see also Press Releases [IP/11/752](#) and [MEMO/11/425](#); check progress via [PreLex Dossier](#)).

[Regulation \(EC\) 1333/2008](#) of 16 December 2008 on food additives brought together provisions on all types of food additives, including colours and sweeteners, into a single act (see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#)). On 11 November 2011, two Regulations amended the 2008 act, establishing an EU list of food additives ([Commission Regulation \(EU\) 1129/2011](#)) and a Union list 'of food additives approved for use in food additives, food enzymes, food flavourings and nutrients' ([Commission Regulation \(EU\) 1130/2011](#); see also Press Releases [IP/11/1341](#) and [MEMO/11/783](#)).

From 22 April 2013, only flavouring substances listed in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 872/2012](#) of 1 October 2012 can be used in food products sold in the EU (transitional measures for other flavourings - e.g. those made from non-food sources - have applied from 22 October 2012 under [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 873/2012](#)).

Results of a further Eurobarometer survey were published in July 2012, showing 'What Europeans think of food security, food quality and the relation between agriculture and the countryside' (see Press Release [IP/12/748](#) and DG Agriculture and Rural Development [Eurobarometer survey](#) page).

Early in 2013, the EU was rocked by the discovery of horse meat in a variety of processed food products labelled as 'beef', including burgers and lasagne. DNA testing revealed apparent widespread fraud and mislabelling of certain processed products. Speaking on 13 February 2013, the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Tonio Borg, confirmed that the crisis was one of fraudulent labelling rather than of food safety. He set out a plan for reporting of test results to the Commission and for relevant information to be included in the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (see [SPEECH/13/123](#) and Press Release [MEMO/13/109](#)).

[Commission Recommendation 2013/99/EU](#) 'on a coordinated control plan with a view to establish the prevalence of fraudulent practices in the marketing of certain foods' was subsequently adopted on 19 February 2013. It consisted of two actions:

- official controls on foods destined for the final consumer or mass caterers, which are marketed and/or labelled as containing beef; and
- official controls on horsemeat destined for human consumption to detect phenylbutazone residues.

The related [Commission Recommendation 2013/99/EU](#) focused on EU contributions to funding the control plan.

## **European Food Safety Authority**

The need for a new scientific body charged with providing independent and objective advice on food safety issues associated with the food chain was articulated in the 'White Paper on Food Safety' published in 2000 ([COM\(1999\)719](#)). The [European Food Safety Authority](#) (EFSA) was accordingly established in 2002 although it did not become active until the following year. It was officially inaugurated in Parma, in June 2005 with a responsibility, in close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, to provide objective scientific advice on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety, including animal health and welfare and plant protection.

EFSA's remit falls into two areas: risk assessment and risk communication. In particular, EFSA's risk assessments provide risk managers (the European Commission, European Parliament and Council) with a sound scientific basis for defining policy-driven legislation or regulatory measures. It is also responsible for communicating scientific and technical information directly to the public in a coherent and consistent manner.

[Regulation 178/2002](#) set out the following tasks for EFSA:

- (a) to provide the Community institutions and the Member States with the best possible scientific opinions in all cases provided for by Community legislation and on any question within its mission;
- (b) to promote and coordinate the development of uniform risk assessment methodologies in the fields falling within its mission;
- (c) to provide scientific and technical support to the Commission in the areas within its mission and, when so requested, in the interpretation and consideration of risk assessment opinions;
- (d) to commission scientific studies necessary for the accomplishment of its mission;
- (e) to search for, collect, collate, analyse and summarise scientific and technical data in the fields within its mission;
- (f) to undertake action to identify and characterise emerging risks, in the fields within its mission;
- (g) to establish a system of networks of organisations operating in the fields within its mission and be responsible for their operation;
- (h) to provide scientific and technical assistance, when requested to do so by the Commission, in the crisis management procedures implemented by the Commission with regard to the safety of food and feed;
- (i) to provide scientific and technical assistance, when requested to do so by the Commission, with a view to improving cooperation between the Community, applicant countries, international organisations and third countries, in the fields within its mission;
- (j) to ensure that the public and interested parties receive rapid, reliable, objective and comprehensible information in the fields within its mission;
- (k) to express independently its own conclusions and orientations on matters within its mission;
- (l) to undertake any other task assigned to it by the Commission within its mission.

In May 2003 the five Scientific Committees providing the Commission with advice on food safety were transferred to the EFSA. At the same time the Scientific Steering Committee's responsibilities relating to scientific advice on BSE/TSE (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies) were also transferred to Agency. These scientific panels now operate in the following areas:

- Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)
- Plant protection products and their residues (PPR)
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO)
- Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA)
- Biological hazards
- Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)
- Animal health and welfare (AHAW)
- Food additives and nutrient sources added to food (ANS)
- Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)
- Food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids (CEF)
- Plant health (PLH).

There are also a number of Units covering additional topics (the EFSA website includes a full list of [Scientific Units and Panels](#)).



2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the General Food Law and the creation of EFSA. To mark EFSA's 10th anniversary, a joint conference was held with DG Health and Consumers to review the Authority's main achievements over the past decade and to look ahead to the challenges that it faces in the future (see EFSA [news item](#)). In addition, a special issue of the [EFSA Journal](#) was published on 18 October 2012, summarising the main achievements of the Authority's first decade, and a scientific conference 'Challenging boundaries in risk assessment – sharing experiences' was held in Parma on 7-8 November 2012 (see EFSA [news item](#)).

EFSA's purpose-built headquarters in Parma, Italy, were officially inaugurated on 12 November 2012 (see EFSA [news item](#)).

On 20 December 2012, EFSA issued a Scientific Opinion public health risks related to the presence of mercury and methylmercury in food (see EFSA [news item](#)).

On 8 January 2013, EFSA published the first scientific assessment in Europe of public health risks posed by pathogens that may contaminate food of non-animal origin (see EFSA [news item](#)).

On 5 March 2013, EFSA published a report on the consumption of 'energy' drinks at European level for specific population groups, including children and adolescents. The study also estimates consumers' exposure, through both acute and chronic consumption, to some active ingredients found in 'energy' drinks - primarily caffeine, taurine and D-glucurono-γ-lactone (see EFSA [news item](#)).

See also the [EFSA website](#)

## **Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health**

Under [Regulation 178/2002](#), a single [Standing Committee of Animal Health and Welfare](#) replaced three separate Committees: the Standing Veterinary Committee, the Standing Committee on Foodstuffs and the Standing Committee on Animal Nutrition. It also took over the Standing Committee on Plant Health's responsibility for plant protection products and pesticides residues. This Committee assists the European Commission by discussing and delivering opinions on draft legislation drawn up by the Commission before it goes through the normal legislative process. Its mandate covers the entire food supply chain, ranging from animal health issues on the farm to the product that arrives on the consumer's table, thus significantly enhancing its ability to target risks to health wherever they arise in the production of food.

It currently has eight sections covering: General Food Law; Biological Safety of the Food Chain; Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain; Controls and Import Conditions; Animal Nutrition; Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk; Animal Health and Animal Welfare, and Phytopharmaceuticals.

The Commission adopted a decision in August 2004 to create [an Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health](#) with the purpose of bringing together consumers, the food industry, retailers and farmers to facilitate consultation and dialogue between the Commission and European organisations on food safety policy. The Group meets twice a year.

## **Rapid Alert System**

The [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed](#) (RASFF) has been in place since 1979 as a tool for exchange of information. The network has members from 30 countries - the 27 EU Member States, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The Commission's RASFF [Annual Report 2009](#) showed that there were nearly 8,000 notifications during the year - an increase of 12% on 2008 (see Press Releases [IP/10/1108](#) and [MEMO/10/399](#)).

According to the [Annual Report 2010](#), notifications rose to 8,582 for that year – up 8% on 2009 (see also Press Release [IP/11/1237](#)).

Four types of notifications are used by RASFF:

- 'Alert notifications' are sent when a food or feed presenting a serious health risk is on the market and when rapid action is required.
- 'Information notifications' are used when a risk has been identified about food or feed placed on the market, but other members of the network do not have to take rapid action.
- 'Border rejections' concern food and feed consignments that have been tested and rejected at an external border when a health risk has been found.
- 'News' is any information related to the safety of food and feed products which has not been communicated as an alert or an information notification, but which is judged interesting for the control authorities.

Published on 20 July 2012, the RASFF report for 2011 showed that 9,157 notifications related to non-compliances with EU food legislation, 617 of which concerned serious risks. There were 3,812 new notifications (3,139 concerning food, 361 concerning feed and 312 concerning food contact materials); there were also 5,345 follow-up notifications (see Press Release [IP/12/806](#)).

## **Enlargement**

Food safety was an important element of the accession negotiations with the entire body of EU food safety law incorporated into the national legislation of the 10 accession countries by May 2004.

The new Member States set up national surveillance networks on food and feed safety to link in with the EU's Rapid Alert System. They upgraded their food and veterinary laboratories, streamlined the organisation of their food and feed control systems, started control of GM-food, trained their inspectors, laboratory staff and also their food operators in various aspects of food law and, in general, greatly improved standards in their food processing establishments.

At the end of December 2006, transitional food safety and veterinary measures were agreed for Bulgaria and Romania, ahead of their accession to the Union in 2007 (see Press Release [IP/06/1725](#)).

Further information is available on the DG Health and Consumers [Enlargement](#) page.

## Information sources in the ESO database

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[12 Consumer affairs](#) [all categories]

- [Key source](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Policy-making](#)
- [Report](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [News source](#)
- [Periodical article](#)
- [Textbook, monograph or reference](#)
- [Background](#)

[12.1 Consumer affairs: general](#)

[12.2 Safety of products and services](#)

[12.2.a Product safety / liability](#)

[12.2.b Dangerous products - Accidents](#)

[12.3 Advertising](#)

[12.4 Financial protection](#)

[12.6 Labelling](#)

[12.7 Consumer rights](#)

[12.8 Food issues](#)

[12.8.a Novel foods](#)

[12.8.b Other food issues](#)

## Further information sources on the internet

- European Commission: DG Health and Consumers
  - [Homepage](#)
  - [Food safety website](#)
    - [Animal Health Strategy](#)
    - [Labelling](#)
    - [Rapid Alert System](#)
    - [GM Food and Feed](#)
    - [What's new](#)
    - [Publications](#)
- European Commission: DG Eurostat
  - [Food: From Farm to Food – Farm chain statistics](#) (note these statistics are not currently being updated)
  - [Food: From Farm To Fork Statistics](#)
- Europa
  - Policy areas: [Food Safety](#)
  - Summaries of EU legislation
    - [Food safety](#) (subsections include: [Animal health](#), [Contamination and environmental factors](#), [Food safety: general provisions](#), [International dimension and enlargement](#), [Veterinary checks](#), [animal health rules](#), [food hygiene](#))
- European Commission: DG Communication
  - [RAPID](#) press releases database – [Health and Food Safety](#) (pre-set search)

- Legislative and policy making information
  - [Treaty on the functioning of the European Union](#): Article 169
  - EUR-Lex: Legislation: [Food safety](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Preparatory legislation: [Food safety](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Consolidated legislation: [Food safety](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Case Law: [Food safety](#)
  - EUR-Lex: Summaries of EU Legislation: [Food safety](#)
  - European Commission: DG [Food safety](#)
- Court of Justice of the European Union: InfoCuria  
[Homepage](#): at 'Subject-matter' box, click icon at far right to open list of subjects. There is no subject 'food safety', so try 'consumer protection' and click 'Enter' to return to main search page. Alternatively, use text search for "food safety" (in parentheses). Select dates if required. Hit 'Search' at top or bottom of page.
- European Parliament: Legislative Observatory (OEIL)  
[Homepage](#): Carry out a [Search](#): scroll down right-hand menu and expand 'Subject'; then expand 'Economic, social and territorial cohesion'; then expand 'Consumers' protection in general', then expand 'Consumer health' and select 'Food safety' (if no menu is shown, click 'OK' at the search box to display it).
- Council of the European Union
  - [Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council](#) (EPSCO)
- European Parliament
  - [Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#)
- European Parliament: Fact Sheets
  - In the Common Policies section, the sub-section [Consumer protection and public health](#) includes a Fact Sheet on [Food safety](#)
- Committee of the Regions
  - [Commission for Natural Resources](#) (NAT)
- European Economic and Social Committee
  - [Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment](#) (NAT)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
  - [Homepage](#)
  - [EFSA](#)
  - [Avian Influenza](#)
  - [Bluetongue](#)
  - [Salmonella](#)
  - [TSE/BSE](#)

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