Question for written answer E-001365/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Transparency of origin of food products is a consumer right

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 ('the FIC Regulation') guarantees the right of consumers to know the origin of foodstuffs. Article 3 of the FIC Regulation provides for a 'high level of protection' and enables consumers to make informed choices.

Article 26 requires only the labelling of the origin if its omission could mislead consumers, or if the origin highlighted differs from that of the primary ingredient. For the other ingredients, the indication of origin is not mandatory.

Article 2(a)(i) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 permits a simplified reference to 'EU', 'non-EU' or 'EU and non-EU', which can be difficult to understand on packaging.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission account for the contradiction between the 'high level of protection' promoted by the FIC Regulation and the lack of any general obligation to label the origin of food products?

2. If it is possible for manufacturers to highlight a place of processing that differs from the primary ingredient's place of origin, is this not deceiving consumers?

3. Does the simplified use of 'non-EU' (which includes 86 % of countries in the world) enable consumers to make informed choices?

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