

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001859/25
to the Commission
Jessika Van Leeuwen (PPE)
(8 May 2025)**

Subject: Labelling and transparency requirements for hybrid meat products

Hybrid meat products consist of a combination of animal-based and plant-based proteins. For meat substitutes, strict rules apply regarding labelling and marketing: such products cannot be marketed under names like 'chicken' or 'minced meat'. However, for hybrid meat products, these rules currently do not apply.

1. Is the Commission aware of the difference in nutritional value between hybrid meat products and traditional meat products consisting entirely of animal proteins?
2. Does the Commission agree that consumers may be misled if it is not clearly indicated on the label that a product partly consists of plant-based proteins and, if so, does the Commission share my opinion that specific labelling rules should be introduced for hybrid meat products to ensure transparency and consumer protection?
3. Moreover, does the Commission acknowledge that clear labelling is also crucial for people with legume intolerances, who need to be fully informed about the presence of plant-based ingredients in such products in order to manage potential health risks?

Submitted: 8.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2025)**

1. Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 ⁽¹⁾ enables consumers to make informed food choices and provides that as any pre-packed foods, mixture of ingredients including meat products as well as plant-based ingredients must contain in their label a nutrition declaration providing consumers information on energy value; and the amounts of fat, saturates, carbohydrate, sugars, protein and salt.
2. Moreover, in Case C-438/23 ⁽²⁾, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) provided guidance on the labelling of foods normally composed of meat products, where meat ingredients were substituted by plant ones. The CJEU clarified that the labelling of such foods must clearly indicate this substitution. This information must appear near the name of the product, in a font sufficiently large against the name of products. The CJEU further confirmed that such positioning and clarity are sufficient to ensure consumers are not misled about the nature of the product.
3. Indication of any ingredient or processing aid causing allergies or intolerances used in the manufacture or preparation of a food and still present in the finished product, even if in an altered form is mandatory in accordance with Article 9(1)(c) of the regulation No 1169/2011 in the list of ingredients.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1169/oj>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62023CJ0438>.