

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.9.2025)

The Commission fully agrees on the importance of the sufficiently precise and accurate information on food origin in order to prevent misleading the consumer.

Member States' authorities are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of Regulation 1169/2011¹ which lays down rules on the provision of food information to consumers, including the indication of the country of origin. While indicating the country of origin is currently obligatory at Union level for several food products, with the most recent specific rules updated and harmonised for honey² as an example, there are no specific mandatory Union labelling requirements for rice. Therefore, the origin indication for rice falls under the general rules of Regulation 1169/2011 which allows Member States to adopt additional national measures concerning the mandatory labelling of foodstuffs, as long as these are justified by reasons specifically defined in the Regulation. Of relevance in this respect are Articles 26, 39 and 45 of this Regulation.

The Commission acknowledges increased interest of consumers in the origin of the food products they consume. In its Vision for Agriculture and Food³, the Commission already indicated that it would propose an extension of country of origin labelling in line with sectoral specificities and Single Market rules. This work needs to find a careful balance between the need to provide adequate information to consumers and the need to ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market, by considering also the administrative burden for operators.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1169/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/110/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.