

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003016/25
to the Commission**

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(21 July 2025)

Subject: Labelling of fishery products

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1141 introduces a 96-hour time limit for processing fishery products at temperatures between -18 °C and 0 °C. This regulation directly affects methods of processing and labelling fishery products, especially those that are processed after being frozen at the aforementioned temperatures. If there is a risk that a batch of intermediate goods may have been stored at temperatures between -18 °C and 0 °C for longer than the 96-hour limit it must remain frozen, with every product in the batch being labelled as 'defrosted'.

Market data shows that the majority of producers operating outside of Poland have not changed their labelling practices and do not label their products in accordance with the requirements, despite using freezing processes and exceeding the 96-hour limit. This may not only result in an uneven playing field, but could also constitute a breach of the consumer's right to accurate information. A lack of uniform labelling rules could mislead consumers on the characteristics and prior storage of products available for purchase.

Given this:

1. Has the Commission analysed the impact of Regulation 2024/1141 on the consistency and legibility of labelling fishery products?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that consumers across the EU have access to accurate information?
3. Is the Commission planning to review the labelling practices in Member States to prevent disinformation?

Submitted: 21.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(23 September 2025)

Annex II Part A (2) of Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 ⁽¹⁾ on the provision of food information to consumers, provides that, in the case of foods that have been frozen before sale and which are sold defrosted, the name of the food shall be accompanied by the designation 'defrosted'. This obligation is not applicable to foods, including fishery products, for which freezing is a technologically necessary step of the production process.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1141 ⁽²⁾ does not change the well-established temperature requirements for storage and transport of frozen and fresh fishery products nor the labelling requirements; therefore, analysing the impact on labelling of those products was considered as unnecessary.

The responsibility of a correct labelling is up to the food business operators and the Commission has no evidence so far that 'the majority of producers operating outside of Poland do not label their products in accordance with the requirements', nor that producers are exceeding the 96-hour limit when using machines that slice or cut fishery products for the so called 'stiffening' process.

The Commission considers the current labelling rules for fishery products sufficiently clear and is not planning to review them.

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

⁽²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/1141/oj.