

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004294/25
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(3 November 2025)

Subject: Full and transparent information for consumers: labelling requirements for seafood products offered by hotels, restaurants and the catering sector

We are increasingly seeing aquaculture products on the market with labels that do not comply with the principles of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 on the organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products or that could even be deemed to be commercial fraud. According to Article 35 of the regulation, consumers must be provided with certain mandatory information, including the commercial designation of the species and its scientific name, the production method, using the words ‘... caught...’ or ‘... farmed...’, and the Member State or third country of provenance.

It is absolutely essential for the EU to ensure that hotel, restaurant, catering and similar operators also provide consumers with complete and transparent information on the fishery and aquaculture products they supply (e.g. through information on menus).

Moreover, better traceability would help to reduce dependence on long-haul transportation and close the gap between the consumption and production of sustainable seafood in the Union.

In view of the above, can the Commission clarify whether it will take swift and decisive action to protect consumers with regard to the traceability of seafood products, ensuring that operators in the hotel, restaurant and catering sector indicate products’ origin and production method?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 December 2025)

The Commission recognises the importance of providing consumers with clear and transparent information on the species, production method and origin of fishery and aquaculture products.

This is reflected in the mandatory consumer information requirements set out in Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 ⁽¹⁾ on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (CMO).

These rules apply to the majority of fishery and aquaculture products but exempt prepared and preserved products. Consequently, mandatory consumer information under the CMO does not cover most items sold by the hospitality sector (e.g. hotels, restaurants, catering).

The revised Fisheries Control Regulation ⁽²⁾ sets out rules to ensure traceability throughout the supply chain. As of 10 January 2026, all lots of fishery and aquaculture products must be traceable from the point of catch or harvest to retail, with each lot requiring proper labelling with minimum information and digital transmission of traceability data. For prepared and preserved products, and as agreed by the co-legislators, new traceability requirements will apply from 2029.

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation, the Commission is assessing the CMO provisions to identify areas for improvement.

A dedicated study ⁽³⁾ informing this evaluation has recently been completed. The study examined, among other issues, the scope of mandatory labelling, the implementation of the CMO labelling rules by Member States, and the situation in the hospitality sector.

While the outcome of the evaluation cannot be prejudged, the Commission remains committed to ensuring that the labelling framework is fit for purpose and delivers effective consumer information.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1379/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009R1224-20241011>.

⁽³⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b8deded9-a010-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1>.