

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004450/25
to the Commission**

**Anne-Sophie Frigout (Pfe), Mélanie Disdier (Pfe), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe), Gilles Pennelle (Pfe), Philippe Olivier (Pfe),
André Rougé (Pfe), Valérie Deloge (Pfe)**
(11 November 2025)

Subject: French fruit farmers affected by fraudulent French origin labelling

Despite higher prices, French consumers prefer buying locally produced goods to support their producers and prioritise high-quality products.

In theory, country of origin labels build trust. In practice, however, fruit from other countries — particularly Belgium and the Netherlands — is sold as if it had been grown in France, as is the case with Conference pears.

These countries are trying to offload inventory from surplus production that has been created by using plant protection products that are banned in France and by harvesting fruit before it is mature, which changes the flavour but allows the fruit to last longer.

At almost half the price, these pears are often labelled as being of ‘French origin’, hoodwinking consumers, creating large profit margins for the fraudsters and driving down prices.

Having conducted 2 500 inspections in France this year, the French Directorate General for Consumer Affairs, Competition and Fraud Control has been overwhelmed by the scale of the phenomenon.

In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission confirm that the ‘administrative assistance and cooperation obligations of Member States’ ⁽¹⁾ are in effect in this particular case?
2. How does the Commission explain these failings in its role as coordinator of ‘the action undertaken by Member States where instances of non-compliance are widespread or recurrent’ ⁽²⁾?

Supporter ⁽³⁾

Submitted: 11.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(23 January 2026)

1. As regards checks related to marketing rules, the provisions on administrative assistance and cooperation laid down in Articles 102 to 108 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (the Official Controls Regulation) ⁽¹⁾ apply insofar as possible fraudulent or deceptive practices are identified in respect of the marketing standards referred to in Articles 73 to 91 of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013 ⁽²⁾. National authorities in France have not reported any issues relating to the origin mislabelling of fruits and vegetables within the EU Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) ⁽³⁾ in 2025.

2. The responsibility for carrying out checks to verify that fruit and vegetables are in conformity with the relevant marketing standards, including origin labelling, lies with the Member States’ inspection bodies. In case of non-compliance because of defects or deterioration, Member States must notify forthwith the Member States likely to be concerned by the consignment that is not in conformity ⁽⁴⁾. Where conformity checks identify possible fraudulent or deceptive practices in respect of the marketing standards, competent authorities should take appropriate action in accordance with the Official Controls Regulation and exchange fraud notifications in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 ⁽⁵⁾.

¹ As provided for in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1918 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

² Ibid.

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Mathilde Androuët (Pfe).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (Official Controls Regulation). *OJ L 95*, 7.4.2017, pp. 1-142: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007. *OJ L 347*, 20.12.2013, pp. 671-854: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/oj>.

⁽³⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/safety/acn_en.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components. *OJ L 261*, 14.10.2019, pp. 37-96: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1715/oj.