

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004958/25
to the Commission
Yvan Verougstraete (Renew), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)
(16 December 2025)**

Subject: Pesticide information on food labels

Different farming methods and models are followed in the EU and synthetic pesticides are deployed in different ways. Some use them, while others use them less or not at all.

It has been widely demonstrated that pesticides are toxic to human health and the environment, and addressing the risks posed by pesticides is a priority for the Commission in its Green Deal.

Curiously, in the context of free trade, raw and processed products make no mention of any upstream use of such pesticides. That is wrong, as it:

- downplays or even hides the fact that such pesticides were used (as well as their potential toxicity);
- favours operators who use them over those who do not or those who strictly limit their use;
- hides best practices.

When will the Commission propose a regulatory framework requiring food labels to clearly state whether pesticides have been used in the production process?

Submitted: 16.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(19 March 2026)**

The protection of human health is the core of the EU food safety rules. The Commission recognises the importance of protecting a high level of human health and the environment while promoting resilient agricultural systems, as set out in the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽¹⁾.

All food placed on the market in the EU must comply with pesticides maximum residue levels established by Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 ⁽²⁾ ensuring that food is safe for consumers.

Information on pesticide residues in food is available through the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Annual Reports on Pesticide Residues ⁽³⁾ based on over 110 000 food samples collected in Member States, Norway and Iceland, covering both products imported from third countries and products originating in Member States.

In line with previous results, the latest report shows that 58% of samples were free from quantifiable residues, and 38% of samples were within legally permitted levels.

These reports provide factual, objective and science-based information for consumers, and the Commission will continue to monitor the situation by means of their findings.

Given EFSA's consistent findings over many years that consumers' exposure to pesticide residues is very limited and does not raise concerns for their health, the Commission does not consider it necessary to propose additional labelling requirements to indicate whether pesticides were used during the production process, which would create significant administrative burdens for food business operators while not improving the protection of consumer health, which is safeguarded by the existing EU food safety rules.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj>.

⁽³⁾ The most recent EFSA Annual Report on Pesticide residues is available in this link: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9398>.