

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000219/26
to the Commission
Wouter Beke (PPE)
(21 January 2026)**

Subject: Follow-up to Written Question E-001685/2025 on French EGalim law and HVE3

In its answer to question for written answer E-001685/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the European Commission referred to the French EGalim law and HVE3 (High Environmental Value level 3), and reference was made to a potential infringement of EU single market principles linked to the implementation of the French EGalim law in the context of collective catering requirements due to a High Environmental Value (HVE3) and to a potential restriction of market access for non-French producers by failing to provide a mechanism for recognising equivalent foreign certifications. In its reply, the Commission stated that, given the potential impact on the single market, it would look into the matter and determine whether any further steps were needed. Reports from non-French market participants indicate that the problem persists to this day.

1. What steps has the Commission taken in the meantime to investigate this potential infringement of EU single market principles?
2. What conclusions have been drawn from any discussions which may have been held with the French authorities on establishing an equivalence mechanism for HVE3 certification, so that non-French producers can continue to participate in the French catering market in accordance with EU law?
3. What steps will the Commission take in view of the fact that there is still no noticeable difference in practice for non-French producers?

Submitted: 21.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(10 March 2026)**

Since its reply to Written Question E-001685/2025, the Commission has examined the French EGalim framework, including the ‘quality and sustainable products’ target in Article L.230-5-1 of the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code.

That provision establishes several eligibility pathways, determined by reference to the categories and conditions expressly listed therein, and does not provide for a restructuring of the scheme or a temporal cut-off affecting eligibility.

As regards the High Environmental Value level 3 certification, Article L.230-5-1 of the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code introduces that certification as one possible compliance pathway and provides for the acceptance of products satisfying equivalent requirements.

That article refers to the adoption of an implementing decree, after consultation of the *Conseil d’État*, specifying the conditions for demonstrating such equivalence.

The absence, to date, of any foreign certification formally recognised as equivalent reflects the current state of pending implementation rather than the absence in law of an equivalence mechanism.

In view of the absence to date of the implementing decree on equivalence, the Commission intends to pursue exchanges with the French authorities to clarify the content envisaged for that decree and its adoption timeline.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001685_NL.html