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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Under the current EU legal framework, mandatory origin labelling is required for beef, pork, sheep, goat and poultry, fruit and vegetables, fish, honey and olive oil, where consumers have demonstrated particular interest or where origin significantly influences purchasing decisions. As outlined in the Vision for Agriculture and Food¹, the Commission will examine the potential extension of mandatory origin labelling to other products covered by sectorial legislation.

The indication of the origin is furthermore mandatory where its omission might mislead consumers as to the true origin of the food. Beyond these cases, business operators may voluntarily provide origin information, provided it is not misleading, confusing or ambiguous.

Article 26(3) of the FIC Regulation² provides that, where the origin of a food *i.e.* the place of processing for processed food is given and differs from the one of its primary ingredient, the latter's origin must also be declared or marked as different. The origin of the primary ingredient must appear in the same field of vision as the origin of the food and the letters must at least be 75% of the height of the letters used for the origin of the food³. The entire presentation of the label must not mislead the consumer as to the true origin of the primary ingredient.

The aim of Article 26(3) is to avoid that consumers are misled about the origin of the primary ingredient where the origin of the food is given. If both origins are different, this must be clear for the consumer. The use of simplified origin indications such as 'non-EU' is allowed to reduce complexity for businesses while still providing consumers with the necessary information. Member States are responsible for implementing and enforcing these rules.

¹ COM/2025/75 final.

² Food Information to Consumers (FIC) Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004.

³ Article 3(2) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 of 28 May 2018 laying down rules for the application of Article 26(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers, as regards the rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food.