

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002702/26
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(30 June 2026)**

Subject: Protecting olive oil and table olives from Proposal P1067 by Australia and New Zealand's independent bi-national food regulation authority, FSANZ

Australia and New Zealand's independent bi-national food regulation authority, FSANZ, recently submitted Proposal P1067 ⁽¹⁾ for public consultation. The proposal aims to make the application of the Health Star Rating (HSR) system mandatory for all packaged foods.

According to technical observations, the algorithm on which the HSR system is based gives excessive weight to individual nutritional indicators, without sufficiently assessing the overall nutritional value of specific products, leading consumers to make misleading conclusions, but also creating commercial distortions to the detriment of European products of high nutritional and cultural value.

Olive oil and table olives, which are a central part of the Unesco-recognised Mediterranean Diet, are prime examples of such products. The algorithm does not take into account their natural bioactive components or the scientifically proven benefits of consuming them in moderation.

Given that Australia is a strategically important market, with imports of 42 272 tonnes of olive oil in the period 2024-2025, the potential implementation of the HRS may create a technical barrier to trade, harming the competitiveness of European and Greek exports.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has it assessed the impact of the P1067 proposal on European olive oil and table olive exports?
2. In the Commission view, is the P1067 proposal compatible with the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade?
3. Does it intend to include this issue in the EU-Australia institutional dialogue on technical barriers to trade?

Submitted: 30.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2026)**

The Commission has been closely following the developments in both Australia's and New Zealand's food labelling regimes and is actively examining their potential implications for EU exports, notably for olive oil and table olives.

In response to the notification by Australia and New Zealand to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on their envisaged mandatory Health Start Rating (HSR) scheme, the Commission provided comments on behalf of the EU, asking for clarifications on the proposed measure and recalling the rules of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

In particular, it underlined that technical regulations must pursue legitimate objectives while avoiding unnecessary obstacles to trade. The Commission also enquired about the impact on international trade and to what extent this new proposal should apply to imported products, including for those trading partners that already have similar or equivalent systems of labelling.

In the margins of the July 2026 meeting of the TBT Committee in the WTO, the Commission also held a bilateral meeting with Australian representatives where this issue was raised.

The Commission underlined that technical regulations may pursue legitimate objectives, provided that they are non-discriminatory and proportionate.

The Commission also highlighted that front-of-pack nutrition labelling schemes vary internationally and there is currently no single globally agreed model, and invited Australia to consider alternatives to mandatory labelling.

The Commission will continue to engage with Australia and New Zealand on this matter in the context of the TBT Committee and in relevant bilateral engagements and will provide updates as the situation evolves.

¹ <https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/food-standards-code/proposals/p1067-health-star-rating-system>.