

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers¹ does not apply to digital applications². However, Directive 2005/29/EC^{3,4} prohibits misleading practices towards consumers that affect their decisions about products. Its application on traders, such as providers of food information applications, is within the competence of national courts and authorities, including within the framework of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Network. The Commission does not have direct enforcement powers in the consumer protection area and has therefore not conducted an in-depth assessment of the scientific basis of such applications.

The Commission has not conducted an assessment of the competitive effects of food-scoring apps such as Yuka. However, as part of its continuous efforts to ensure a competitive food supply chain in the Union, the Commission monitors developments in digital tools affecting the chain, including their potential impact on consumers, competition, and the overall functioning of the internal market. Should concrete evidence emerge of anticompetitive practices linked to such platforms, the Commission will assess the need for further action under EU competition rules.

The Commission is fully committed to safeguarding traditional and high-quality food products, particularly those protected under geographical indications (GIs)⁵. The Commission works closely with Member States to enhance awareness of GI-protected products, ensuring their unique qualities and heritage are recognised both within the EU and internationally.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/1169/2025-04-01>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/29/oj/eng>

³ This Regulation applies only to ‘food businesses which are defined as ‘any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing and distribution of food’. Digital applications, such as the Yuka app, do not fall within this definition.

⁴ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/29/oj>.

⁵ As set out in Regulation (EU) No 2024/1143: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:L_202401143.