

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (<http://medisys.newsbrief.eu>)



Disclaimer: The presentation of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.

Food Fraud Cases

The authorities seized in total 11.7 tons of red tuna lacking the required traceability documentation or without the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document.

[La Sicilia web](#) [Palermo Today](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Ansa](#)
[Il Dispaccio](#) [Ansa](#)

In the operation “*Beluga*”, the authorities seized almost 1 ton of bivalves with fake packing dates or without traceability documentation.

[Il Gazzettino](#) [L'Adige](#) [Trento Today](#) [Giornale Trentino](#) [il Dolomiti](#)
[La Voce del Trentino](#) [Oggi Treviso](#)

In the operation “*Illegal Gear*”, the authorities seized 11 tons of seafood (including some red tuna, as mentioned in the above news) lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Blog Sicilia](#) [Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Palermo Today](#)

In the operation “*BFT Connect*”, the authorities seized 1.5 tons of tuna and sea urchins without traceability documentation.

[La Sicilia Web](#) [News Sicilia](#) [QdS](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [MeridioNews](#)
[Gazzetta del Sud](#) [Ragusa News](#) [Catania Today](#)
[NoveTV](#) [Radio RTM](#) [Corriere di Ragusa](#)

In the operation “*Controcorrente*”, the authorities dismantled a criminal organisation illegally fishing carps and catfishes by using banned methodologies (like electricity). The fishes were then smuggled to Romania with fake documents.

[Ravenna Today](#)

The authorities dismantled a criminal organisation faking horse and donkey certificates (e.g. passports, electronic chips) to divert and sell them as horse meat into the food chain. Horses and donkeys were originally not supposed to be farmed for human consumption (e.g. for horse racing).

[Rtbf](#) [Rtl](#) [Vrt](#) [L'Avenir](#) [Food Safety News](#) [Tio](#) [FranceTV Info](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
 Cephalopods and products thereof
 Crustaceans and products thereof
 Fish and fish products
 Gastropods
 Other food products/mixed
 Grey market



Belgium



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
 Document forgery



The authorities seized 1.2 tons of substandard spices prepared by using bran and dyes.

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Herbs and spices



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 1.5 tons of spices produced by mixing husk, non-food grade colours and used edible oil.

[Urdu Point](#)

[The Frontier Post](#)

[Daily Times](#)

The authorities seized 450 kg of chilies adulterated with colours.

[Tribune](#)

The authorities seized in total 131.2 tons of contraband ration cereals intended for the public distribution system. Since May, the authorities seized almost 4 048 tons of contraband cereals.

[The Hindu](#)

[Times of India](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[Times of India](#)

[Times of India](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 1.2 tons of meat illegally slaughtered.

[Times of India](#)



India



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized 6 tons of sugar intended to be smuggled to Afghanistan.

[Tribune](#)



Pakistan



Other food products/ mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 346 tons of contraband wheat or fine wheat flour (maida).

[Pakobserver](#)

[The News](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[Nation](#)

[Nation](#)

[Pakobserver](#)

[Tribune](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[Urdu Point](#)

[The](#)

[Frontier Post](#)

[Pakobserver](#)

[Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

Three men died in India after consuming adulterated alcoholic beverages.

[Times of India](#)



India



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product tampering

A group of smugglers attacked some officials of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (Senasag) in order to recover 16 tons of contraband fish (total value between 38 000 and 47 500 Euros).

[Senasag](#)

[El Pais](#)

[Eju](#)

[Reduno](#)

[Pagina siete](#)



Bolivia



Fish and fish products



Grey market

The authorities seized 26.2 tons of juices with fake origin labelling.

[Gov.br](#)



Brazil



Non-alcoholic beverages



Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

Meat companies were accused of mixing mechanically separated meat into their poultry sausages without declaring it alongside the name of the product (as legally required), thus deceiving consumers. Laboratory analyses supported the suspicion.

[Spiegel](#) [Rtl](#)

-  Germany
-  Poultry meat and poultry meat products
-  Misdescription/ Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 1.05 tons of milk adulterated with chemicals.

[Urdu Point](#) [Nation](#) [Brecorder](#)

-  Pakistan
-  Milk and milk products
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 1.5 tons of contraband beef.

[Times of India](#)

-  India
-  Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
-  Grey market




The Interior Ministry seized almost 107 000 tons of local wheat traded illegally.

[Ahram](#)

-  Egypt
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Grey market

The authorities seized 9 tons of contraband food intended to be smuggled to Peru.

[Reduno](#) [Eju](#)

-  Bolivia
-  Food
-  Grey market

The authorities destroyed 42 810 contraband liquor bottles seized since 2019. They were imported illegally from neighbouring countries and sold at exorbitant prices.

[Uniindia](#)

-  India
-  Alcoholic beverages
-  Grey market

From January to May, the authorities seized and destroyed 815 113 litres of India-made foreign liquor (IMFL) and 572 115 litres of country liquor.

[Times of India](#)

The authorities destroyed almost 34 000 liquor bottles brought illegally into the country.

[Unindia](#)

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KP FS&HFA) seized over 4 tons of substandard jaggery (Gurr) adulterated with chemicals and non-food grade colours.

[Urdu Point](#) [The Frontier Post](#) [The News](#)

-  Pakistan
-  Other food products/ mixed
-  Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized almost 38 tons of contraband rice (total value of 43 170 Euros).

[Daily Post](#)

-  Nigeria
-  Cereals and bakery products
-  Grey market

The authorities seized 140 tons of contraband meat (total value of 1.5 million Euros).

[Publika](#) [Ziarul national](#)



Moldova



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)
Poultry meat and poultry
meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized 19 tons of rice, pasta and cous cous expired since 3 years but relabelled with a new expiry date.

[Corriere Romagna Ferrara](#) [Il Resto del Carlino Repubblica](#) [Ravenna Notizie Reggio2000](#) [La Nuova Bologna Today](#)



Italy



Cereals and bakery
products



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized in total 41 000 cans and bottles of illegal alcoholic beverages.

[Times of Oman](#) [Times of Oman](#)



Oman



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 3 million pills of food supplements (total value of 2.5 million Euros) not yet authorised to be sold on the market.

[Il Fatto Alimentare](#)



Italy



Dietetic foods, food
supplements, fortified
foods



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 9 tons of contraband corn.

[Primera Edicion](#)



Argentina



Cereals and bakery
products



Grey market

In May, the Italian Carabinieri seized 700 tons of food unfit for human consumption, without traceability documentation or with wrong labels, for a total value of 3 million Euros. The controls focused on restaurants serving ethnic foods and cuisines, and the related supply chains.

[Salute.gov](#) [Ansa](#) [Leggo](#) [Fanpage](#) [Tiscali](#)
[AmbienteAmbienti](#) [Today](#)



Italy



Food



Grey market
Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 5 000 bottles of alcoholic beverages either contraband or adulterated.

[La Nacion](#) [Caracol](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Grey market

The authorities have arrested 32 people and are investigating another 49 for stealing 518 tons of fruits and vegetables from crop fields.

[Europa press](#) [Diariodia](#) [20minutos](#) [Noticiasde](#) [Gente digital](#)
[Informacion](#) [Diario Siglo XXI](#) [Antena3](#) [ABC](#)
[Madrid Press](#) [Teleprensa](#) [Agro News Comunitat Valenciana](#) [Agra](#)
[News Castilla y Leon](#)



Spain



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

In another operation, the authorities seized 1.35 tons of fruits and vegetables (tomatoes, red

pepper and avocados) lacking phytosanitary certificates and traceability documentation.

[El Dia](#) [Diario de Avisos](#) [el Diario](#) [Canarias7](#)

The authorities seized 12 tons of fresh and frozen meat without traceability documentation (total value of around 90 000 Euros).

[Repubblica](#) [Modena Today](#) [Gazzetta di Parma](#) [Parma Today](#) [La Gazzetta dell'Emilia](#) [Sassuolo2000](#) [Reggio2000](#)



Italy



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Poultry meat and poultry meat products
Grey market



The authorities dismantled a criminal organisation counterfeiting low-quality wine with the Geographical Indication of Bordeaux.

[Sud Ouest](#) [Ouest-France](#) [France bleu](#) [L'essentiel](#) [La voix du nord](#) [Le Parisien 20 minutes](#) [La Roche sur Yon](#) [France3](#) [CNews](#)



France



Wine



Counterfeit

Other interesting articles

ACN Annual Report 2021

The European Commission has published the ACN Annual Report 2021. The Alert and Cooperation Network (ACN) is composed of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system (AAC) and the Food Fraud Network (FFN).

[Ec.europa](#) [Aesan](#) [Food Retail](#) [Food Safety News](#) [Revista Alimentaria](#) [Food Safety Africa](#)



European Union



Food

2021 report on food adulteration

The Italian authorities published the 2021 report on food adulteration. They performed 61 756 anti-fraud controls and inspected over 33 000 business operators and 62 000 products. The value of all products seized was 9.1 million Euros.

[ICQRF](#) [Wine news](#) [Terra e Vita](#) [Il Salvagente](#)
[GreenMe](#) [Money](#) [Investire oggi](#) [Libero quotidiano](#)
[GarantItaly](#) [GreenMe](#) [Calciomercato](#)



Italy



Food
Fats and oils

Regarding olive oil, analytical non-compliances were found in 20.2% of samples analysed. Common frauds included:

- the mislabelling of virgin olive oil for extra-virgin olive oil
- the mixing of olive oil with seed oils
- falsification of the country of origin
- counterfeit of Geographical Indications (GIs)

[Teatro Naturale](#)

Half of seafood in Mexico illegally fished

According to the organisation Oceana, 50% of products of fishery origin in Mexico are illegal and 40% of fishing seas are overfished.

[Oceana](#) [Vanguardia](#)



Mexico



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
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Gastropods

2019-2022 smuggling report



Philippines

From 2019 to 2022, 11.5 million Euros of agri-food products were smuggled into the country.

[News Info](#)



Food

New Centre for Excellence in Agriculture and Food Integrity

The UK Government has launched the Centre for Excellence in Agriculture and Food Integrity, a partnership between Queen's University Belfast and the National Measurement Laboratory (NML) at LGC in Teddington. The Centre will be based at the ASSET Technology Centre at Queen's University Belfast.

[Gov.uk](#)



United Kingdom



Food

Experts interviewed

An online journal has interviewed several food crime experts, focusing also on recent perturbations (Brexit, Covid and the war in Ukraine) in the global food supply chain.

[Sunday Post](#)



United Kingdom



Food

New study on US seafood fraud

The Vermont Law School has published the report "*Seafood Fraud: Analysis of Legal Approaches in the United States*", focusing on legislation, regulations and programs shaping the US seafood policy.

[Vermont Law](#)

[Ein news](#)

[SeafoodSource](#)



USA



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
Cephalopods and products thereof
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Fish and fish products
Gastropods

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