

September 2021

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 Italian authorities seized 800 kg of meat products and cheese lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Il Reggino](#) [Calabria7](#) [Il Metropolitano](#) [Reggio Today](#)
[Zoom24](#) [CN24](#) [StrettoWeb](#) [Gazzetta del Sud](#) [City](#)
[Now](#) [LaCNews24](#) [Il Dispaccio](#) [Ansa Calabria](#) [QuiCosenza](#)
[Tempo Stretto](#) [RTV](#) [Geos News](#) [Il Meridio](#)
[Day Italia News](#) [Giornale L'Ora](#) [Strilli](#) [Soverato Web](#)



Italy



Food

Meat and meat products (other than poultry)

Milk and milk products

Poultry meat and poultry meat products

Documents



Researchers from the University of Oviedo analysed by PCR 401 samples of frozen fish from Africa (tuna, hake, anchovy and blue whiting) widely consumed around the world. They identified an average mislabelling/substitution rate of 1.9% (0% for blue whiting, 2.4% for anchovy, 4.17% for hake and 5.2% for tuna). Although the rate is low, endangered species were used to replace the more expensive ones, pointing to illegal fishing.

[Scientific Reports](#) [La Voz de Asturias](#) [20 minutos](#) [Gentedigital](#)
[EuropaPress](#) [Food Retail](#) [La Sexta](#) [El Comercio](#)
[Con Salud](#) [ABC](#) [Diario de Jerez](#) [Diario de Sevilla](#) [La voz](#)
[del sur](#) [Il Salvagente](#) [Green Me](#) [20 minutos](#) [El](#)
[Espanol](#) [Diario de Avisos](#) [El Economista](#) [Ecoticias](#)



EU/ Africa



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling

Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

The Italian authorities seized 1.5 tons of fish (e.g. anchovies, sardines and mackerel) lacking the required traceability documentation.

[La Sicilia Web](#) [Geos News](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Documents

In a second operation, additional 1.5 tons of fish were seized for having no documentation.

[Oggi Treviso](#) [Il Gazzettino](#) [Ambiente Ambienti](#)

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded over 27 000 litres of milk contaminated with water, urea and powder.

[Daily Times](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal
Unapproved treatment and/or process

Within the context of the Operation “Scarlatto IV”, the Italian authorities seized 5.5 tons (total value of 30 000 euros) of tomato sauce from a company falsifying labels with the Geographical Indication “Pachino IGP”.

Another company was fined for selling 9 tons of tomatoes mislabelled as “from Italy”.

[Il Salvagente](#)

[Gazzetta del Sud](#)

[Corriere della Calabria](#)

[CDN](#)

[Quotidiano Nazionale](#)

[Zoom24](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables
Soups, broths, sauces and condiments



IPR – Intellectual property rights
Mislabelling

The Romanian authorities seized 3 tons of spoiled meat, ready to be illegally used for the production of sausages.

[Gazeta de CLUJ](#)



Romania



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Unapproved treatment and/or process

The Italian authorities seized 13 tons of capers mislabelled as a Geographical Indication from Sicily.

[TGSky24](#)

[Wine News](#)

[Il Cittadino di Messina](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables



IPR – Intellectual property rights

The National Service for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (Senasag) seized more than 4 tons of food and beverages (prawns, strawberry truffles, olive oil and alcoholic beverages) already expired, but re-labelled with new expiry dates.

[Eju](#)

[Eldeber](#)



Bolivia



Food



Mislabelling

The Indian police has seized 4 370 fake packets of tea mislabelled as a renowned brand.

[Naveen Bharat](#)

[The Indian Express](#)



India



Cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea



IPR – Intellectual property rights

The Spanish authorities seized 16 tons of molluscs transported with falsified capture and transport documents. The seafood products were also sold without proper sanitary measures, thus probably not being fit for human consumption as well.

[OCCRP](#)



Spain



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
Cephalopods and products thereof
Gastropods



Documents

Other interesting articles

Dual quality food in Lithuania

An online article covers the topic of “dual-quality food” as experienced in Lithuania.

[LRT](#)



Lithuania



Food

China increases rewards for whistleblowers

The Chinese government will double the current reward for whistleblowers reporting safety problems or misconduct with consumer products.

[Nikkei Asia](#)



China



Food

2020 Annual Report on food frauds

The European Commission has published the 2020 annual report of the EU Agri-Food Fraud Network (EU FFN) and the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system for Food Fraud (AAC-FF).

[2020 annual report](#)

[Food Authenticity Network](#)

[Affidia](#)

Agence

Europe ([EN](#) - [FR](#))

[Food Safety News](#)



EU



Food

Honey fraud

An online article discusses the challenges presented by frauds in the honey sector.

[Food Safety Tech](#)



World



Honey and royal jelly

Non-compliances for fresh fruits and vegetables

During summer the Italian authorities have performed more than 1 000 controls on the fruits and vegetables chain, finding 17% of non-compliances, especially for products mislabelled as being from Italy.

[Abruzzo Live & Vita](#)

[Agricoltura Corriere Ortofrutticolo](#)

[AskaNews](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia Italia Fruit News](#)

[Terra](#)

[CIA](#)



Italy



Fruits and vegetables

Food fraud and cotton

An online magazine published a long article dedicated to food fraud and counterfeit cotton.

[The Guardian](#)



World



Food

Fraud in the wine sector

An online article addresses frauds in the wine sector, quoting a report which claims “20% of wine sold worldwide is fake”.

[MSN](#)



World



Wine

Fraud in the salmon supply chain

An online magazine addresses the topic of fraud and mislabelling affecting the salmon supply chain.

[National Geographic](#)



World



Fish and fish products

Optimal Policy Response to Food Fraud

An online article discusses the potential strategies to counter food fraud from a policy perspective.



World



Food

Fraud affecting the seafood sector in Greece

A scientific paper reports mislabelling rates of 13.5% for 114 ray products collected from fishmongers, open markets, supermarkets, and restaurants across Greece. The researchers analysed the seafood products through DNA barcoding, highlighting that 3.5% of the samples belonged to protected species.

[Food Control](#)



Greece

Fish and fish products

The European Commission's science and knowledge service Joint Research Centre



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