

November 2022

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

Between December 2021 and May 2022, in the Operation OPSON XI the authorities of 26 countries (coordinated by EUROPOL and Interpol) seized almost 27 000 tonnes of fake food and 15 million litres of alcoholic beverages.

[Europol](#) [OLAF](#) [Hln](#) [Securing Industry](#) [Finanz Nachrichten](#) [Stern](#)
[Pressportal](#) [Rtl](#) [Proximus](#) [Infobae](#) [Extreme News](#)
[Food Safety News](#) [Bvl](#) [Food Retail](#) [Affidia Journal](#)
[Proplanta](#) [Il Fatto Alimentare](#) [Food Safety News](#) [Top](#) [agrar](#)
[Schweizerbauer](#) [Corriere ortofrutticolo](#) [La Razon](#) [Guardia](#) [Civil](#)



EU/ World



Food



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Counterfeit

Document forgery

Grey market

Misdescription/

Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The European Commission, together with the EU Food Fraud Network, joined forces on the one-year lasting EU Enforcement Action “*Bamboo-zling*” on plastic Food Contact Materials (FCM) made of bamboo ‘powder’.

748 cases of plastic food contact materials containing unauthorised bamboo powder were notified by the action participants.

[Ec.europa](#) [Food Packaging Forum](#)



EU



Food Contact Materials



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized almost 215 000 Euros-worth of candies and snacks with packages resembling those of well-known brands. The products also contained tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

[Securing Industry](#)



USA



Confectionery



Counterfeit

The authorities seized over 2 000 bottles of contraband liquor.

[Ndtv](#)



India



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 10 081 bottles of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL).

[India.com](#)

The authorities seized in total 10.6 tons of seafood illegally fished or without traceability documentation.

[Venezia Today](#) [Trieste Café](#) [Dissapore](#) [Blog Sicilia](#) [Daily Italia News](#)
[Ansa](#) [La Sicilia](#) [Meridio News](#) [Giornale di Sicilia](#) [Politicamente](#)
[corretto](#) [Ekuo News](#) [Riviera Oggi](#) [Il Pescara](#) [QdS](#) [Palermo Today](#)
[Blog Sicilia](#) [La Sicilia](#) [News Sicilia](#)



Italy



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



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 40.2 tons of contraband rice meant for public distribution.

[Times of India](#) [The Hindu](#) [Times of India](#) [The Hindu](#) [The Hindu](#)
[The Hindu](#) [The Hindu](#) [Business Standard](#)



India



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 2 tons of meat ready to be illegally supplied to city markets and restaurants.

[Dawn](#)



Pakistan



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



Grey market

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority seized in total 4.5 tons of spices adulterated with e.g. bran, substandard oil, flour, rice and harmful dyes.

[Urdu Point](#) [Urdu Point](#)



Pakistan



Herbs and spices



Adulteration/ Product tampering

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) seized in total almost 1 ton of red chili adulterated with substandard colours and other hazardous ingredients.

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

The authorities seize in total 18 400 litres of milk adulterated with e.g. hazardous chemicals, powder, substandard ghee, whey powder, or dirty oil.

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



Pakistan



Milk and milk products



Adulteration/ Product tampering

The authorities seized 33 tons of contraband tomatoes and bell peppers.

[Ultima hora](#)



Paraguay



Fruits and vegetables



Grey market

The authorities closed a clandestine factory illegally producing at least 5 280 bottles of alcohol per month.

[Semana](#) [El Pais](#) [Diario Occidente](#) [El Tiempo](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 2.5 tons of contraband beef from Argentina (total value of almost 25



Paraguay

000 Euros).
[Megacadena](#)

[Ultima Hora](#)

[Monumental](#)



Meat and meat products



Grey market

The authorities seized more than 2 000 litres of illegal liquor.

[La Hora](#)

[El comercio
Prensa](#)

[El Telegrafo
Cre](#)

[Tele Amazonas](#)

[Ecuador envivo](#)



Ecuador



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

In another operation, the authorities seized 1 800 litres of illegal liquor.

[El Telegrafo](#)

[El Universo](#)

[El Comercio](#)



Indonesia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

The authorities seized 1 600 bottles of contraband whiskey and 1 872 bottles of contraband vodka.

[Nuevo periodico](#)

The National Customs seized 331 tons of contraband food (total value of almost 305 000 Euros).

[Abi](#)

[El Diario](#)



Bolivia



Food



Grey market

The authorities seized 8 640 bottles of compound oil (soybean oil and other vegetable oils) mislabelled as containing olive oil.

[Revista Negocio rural](#)



Brazil



Fats and oils



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized more than 3 tons of cheese without veterinary certificates.

[Crhoy](#)



Costa Rica



Milk and milk products



Grey market

The Rosslare Europort authorities seized 53 000 litres of contraband beer and 930 litres of contraband wine (total retail value of 223 000 Euros).

[Independent](#)



Ireland



Alcoholic beverages
Wine



Grey market

Four people died after consuming alcohol adulterated with methanol.

[Hurriyet Daily News](#)



Türkiye



Alcoholic beverages



Adulteration/ Product
tampering
Grey market

An Indian company has been fined for selling Jawaphool rice misbranded as “DAAWAT” Basmati rice with labels and packaging mimicking those of another brand.

[Indian express](#)



India



Cereals and bakery
products



Counterfeit

The authorities seized 4.5 tons of tuna cans (22 000 cans) of generic tuna mislabelled as a more expensive variety of tuna fish.

[Ansa](#) [La Stampa](#) [Telenord](#) [Il secolo xix](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Misdescription/
Mislabelling/ Misbranding

The authorities seized 29 tons of sugar illegally stored.

[Bss News](#)



Bangladesh



Other food products/
mixed



Grey market

The authorities seized 60 tons of smuggled soybeans.

[Primera Edicion](#)



Argentina



Cereals and bakery
products



Fruits and vegetables
Grey market

In 2022 the authorities have seized in total 2 300 tons of contraband soybeans, 879 tons of contraband corn and 29 tons of contraband beans (total value of 2.3 million Euros).

[Primera Edicion](#) [Clarín](#)

The authorities seized 1 100 bottles of contraband alcohol.

[Semana](#) [Rcn radio](#) [Hsb Noticias](#) [Semana](#)



Colombia



Alcoholic beverages



Grey market

Hong Kong Customs and the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) seized 2.4 tons of supposedly contraband hairy crabs without health certificates (total value of 134 000 Euros).

[Info.gov](#) [Foreign affairs](#)



Hong Kong



Bivalve molluscs and
products thereof

Hong Kong Customs seized almost 50 tons of contraband dried seafood (total value of 32 million Euros) and 30 000 bottles of wine.

[Info.gov](#) [Scmp](#) [The Standard](#)

Cephalopods and
products thereof
Crustaceans and products
thereof

Fish and fish products

Gastropods

The authorities seized 5.2 tons of suspected contraband hairy crabs total value of almost 310 000 Euros) and 2.5 tons of suspected contraband frozen meat (total value of almost 50 000 Euros).

[Info.gov](#) [Foreign affairs](#) [Occrp](#)

Meat and meat products

(other than poultry)

Poultry meat and poultry

meat products

Wine



Grey market

The authorities seized in total 6.7 tons of cheese and 2.3 tons of meat products (beef or pork) without traceability documentation. In some cases, the analyses revealed contamination with *Listeria*.

[Salute.gov](#) [La Sicilia](#) [Giornale L'Or](#) [Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [Quotidiano](#)
[Puglia](#) [Tuscia Web](#) [Affari Italiani](#) [Fanpage](#) [Business24TV](#) [Gazzetta di](#)
[Parma](#) [Notizie Tiscali](#) [Italia Notizie 24](#) [LaCNews24](#) [Libero quotidiano](#)
[Italtpress](#) [La Sicilia web](#) [Il Mattino](#) [Sardinia post](#) [Giornale di](#)
[Sicilia](#) [Giornale partite Iva](#) [Il denaro](#) [La discussione](#) [Il fatto](#)
[quotidiano](#) [Il Fatto Nisseno](#) [La Provincia Cr](#) [Ok Mugello](#) [Sardegna Reporter](#)
[Grandangolo Agrigento](#) [Interris](#) [Sassuolo2000](#) [Reggio2000](#)
[Zoom24](#) [Catania Today](#) [Il Nordest quotidiano](#) [Vivienna](#) [Agi](#)
[Gazzetta del Sud](#) [Parma Today](#) [Resto al Sud](#) [Tele Nicosia](#) [Otto](#)
[pagine](#) [Quotidiano di Gela](#) [Quotidiano Molise](#) [Italia a Tavola](#) [Dissapore](#)
[Quotidiano Sanità](#) [Leggo](#) [Meridio News](#) [Seguo News](#) [Nuova Cosenza](#)



Italy



Meat and meat products
(other than poultry)



Milk and milk products
Grey market

[Today](#) [Ansa](#) [Itaca Notizie](#) [Il Fatto Nisseno](#) [Il Salvagente](#) [Il Mattino](#) [Treviso](#)
[Il Gazzettino](#) [Casteddu online](#) [Normanno](#) [La Voce di](#) [Mantova](#)
[Calabria Diretta News](#) [Il denaro](#) [Odpnews](#) [Liguria notizie](#) [Il](#)
[notiziario](#) [Stato quotidiano](#) [ViviEnna](#) [Bari Live](#) [Salute domani](#) [Money](#)
[Il metropolitano](#) [Help Consumatori](#) [Food Safety News](#)

The authorities seized 1 813 bottles of alcoholic beverages with fake labels from famous brands.

[Archyde](#) [Diario](#) [Diario](#)



Mexico



Alcoholic beverages



Counterfeit

The authorities seized 65 tons of contraband wheat and flour.

[Tribune](#)



Pakistan



Cereals and bakery products



Grey market

The authorities seized 2.1 tons of frozen Spanish pork ready to be smuggled to Switzerland.

[ArcInfo](#)



France



Meat and meat products (other than poultry)



Grey market

The authorities seized almost 1 ton of shark meat (mainly fins) illegally fished for the black market. In 2022, the authorities seized in total 7.4 tons of shark meat from protected species.

[El Colombiano](#) [GreenMe](#)



Colombia



Fish and fish products



Grey market

Other interesting articles

Ginger fraud

An online review summarizes the available knowledge on food fraud affecting the ginger supply chain (from China to EU), the analytical methods and the most common vulnerabilities.

[npj Science of Food](#)



EU/ China



Herbs and spices

Food sectors most vulnerable to food crimes in Scotland

The Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit (SFCIU) identified meat, seafood and alcohol as being at high risk for food crime.

[Food Safety News](#) [Agriland](#)



United Kingdom



Food

Food fraud report by Nordic countries

The Nordic Council of Ministers (Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden) has published a joint project report on food fraud with a threat assessment for specific food chains.

[Norden.diva](#) [Food Safety News](#) [Affidia Journal](#)



EU/ World



Food

"Food Crimes, Food Harms and the Food System" special edition

The academic journal "Crime, Law and Social Change" has published a special edition with nine articles dedicated to food fraud.

[Crime, Law and Social Change](#)



World



Food

The Food Fraud Monthly Report is drafted by the JRC Geel Unit F.4 “*Fraud Detection and Prevention*” with the support of the JRC Ispra Unit I.3 “*Text and Data Mining*”.

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