

November 2018

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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## Food Fraud Cases

A honey producer from Corsica faces regulatory action for mixing 600 kg of imported honey with its own honey produced in Corsica and marketing the blend as a PDO honey.

[Corse Matin](#): 09/11/18



Honey



Substitution

According to a study carried out by the Belgian Meat Federation one third of the meat sold in Belgium under the quality label Belbeef lacks traceability. The label should guarantee consumers the Belgian origin of the beef making it possible to trace back the exact animal from which the meat in a certain product comes.

[LeVif](#): 16/11/18

[Belga](#): 16/11/2018



Meat



Mislabelling

Four business operators have been taken to court in Italy for selling conventional food labelled as "organic". In some fields the company produced food respecting the rules of organic production, while on other fields food was produced with the use of pesticides, herbicides, etc. By mixing organic and non-organic products the non-authorised substances were diluted to a large extent. However, the fraud was identified outside Italy when some of the non-authorised substances were detected.

[Veronasera](#): 16/11/18



Various food



Substitution/  
Mislabelling

Italian authorities have seized 23 tons of onions labelled as Tropea onions, a sweet red onion variety protected by a PGI label, which were in reality produced in other regions.

[Strill.it](#): 17/11/18



Onions



Origin masking

Italian authorities carried out controls on food sold on the internet (e-commerce). Several irregularities were found, among them lack of hygienic conditions and misuse of PDO labels

[La Nuova Sardegna](#): 19/11/18



Various food  
commodities



Intentional  
distribution of  
contaminated  
products

Lack of traceability  
Mislabelling

According to the Consumer Guidance Society of India (CGSI), 78 % of milk samples analysed in a period of 10 months in 2018 did not meet the required quality standards.

[Mumbai Mirror](#): 20/11/18



Milk



Lack of quality

According to Italian authorities 385 000 kg of the hard cheese varieties "Grana Padano" and "Parmiggiano" were sold in Canada making fraudulent use of the label "made in Italy". This was an increase of 49% over the last year.

[Lucca in Diretta](#): 22/11/18



Cheese



Counterfeit

Due to pests and adverse weather conditions this year's harvest of olives in Italy is worse than in previous years. The poor harvest increases the risk of fraudulently declare imported olive oil as being grown and produced in Italy. The fraud scheme uses fictitious purchasing of olives from Italian producers by oil mills which then use the purchasing documents to disguise imported oil as Italian.

[Il Salvagente](#): 28/11/18



Olive oil



Origin masking

Eleven tons of different types of food, including Prosciutto di Parma and Mozzarella di Bufala Campana, but also tomatoes and other types of meat were seized by Italian authorities due to mislabeling. The products showed labels corresponding to different PDOs which did not correspond to the identity of the product. Some other products also lacked traceability documentation.

[greenMe](#): 29/11/18



Several types of food



Mislabelling

Italian authorities took regulatory action against a producer of mozzarella for mixing cow and buffalo milk to produce the popular Italian cheese and sold it under the label "mozzarella di bufala".

[Fanpage](#): 29/11/18



Cheese



Substitution

## Other interesting articles

Almost half the saffron samples analysed in the frame of a study carried out by a university research group in India were found to be affected by some kind of fraud. The results were not supported by another study carried out by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. In four samples parts of the plant (leaves and stem) other than the stigma were found during the analysis, making analytical tests based on DNA analysis non-fit-for-the-purpose.

[Global Food Mate](#): 05/11/18



Saffron



Substitution

12/11/2018 – FoodIntegrity: Five of the most common fake foods

According to a research project FoodIntegrity, the five food commodities most frequently affected by fraudulent activities are olive oil, honey, coconut water, oregano and saffron.

[Process Alimentaire](#)



France



Various foods

17/11/2018 – The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission finds honey testing method unreliable to prove honey authenticity.

In September 2018 a reputed Australian honey distributor was accused of selling honey adulterated with corn syrup. In Australia adulteration of honey is identified via determination of C4 sugars. The analysis that triggered the alert on honey adulteration in Australia, were conducted with NMR. According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission the uncertainty of the NMR method is not sufficiently characterised and cannot be used to justify legal actions.

[Foreign Affairs](#)



Australia



Honey

23/11/2018 – Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food introduces a system to regulate olive oil traceability in Spain.

According to ASAJA (a Spanish association of young agricultures) the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will introduce a system to warranty the traceability of olive oil in Spain. The system will cover the full production process from harvest to the moment the oil is sold. Seventy two percent of Spanish oil is sold outside Spain to 170 countries.

[Inversion & Finanzas](#)



Spain



Olive oil

29/11/2018 – Spanish producers of sheep and goat meat request the introduction of traceability labels for their products.

Spanish producers of sheep and goat meat have requested for the introduction of mandatory labels to safeguard the traceability of their products and to allow the consumer to be informed about the origin of the meat they buy.

[Agroinformacion](#)



Spain



Meat

30/11/2018 – Few agro-food companies are ready to denounce fraud when confronted with it.

A study carried out by the *Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations* (CIRANO) covering 400 food enterprises indicates that only 39 % of the companies that took part in the study would denounce fraud to the authorities when confronted with it.

[Radio Canada](#)



Canada



All food

*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*

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