



ADOPTED TEXT n° 561

*Provisional Act*

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTION OF OCTOBER 4, 1958  
FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

ORDINARY SESSION of 2020-2021

February 3, 2021

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## EUROPEAN RESOLUTION

on **food safety** in the **European Union**.

*The resolution, the content of which follows is considered definitive, in application of article 151-7 of the Rules of Procedure:*

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See number: **3636**.

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## **Single Article**

The French National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 88-4 of the Constitution,

Having regard to Article 151-5 of the Rules of the National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 169 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to regulations (EC) no 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of January 28, 2002 establishing the general principles and general requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and setting procedures relating to food safety and (EC) no 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) no 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 25, 2011 concerning information to consumers on foodstuffs, amending regulations (EC) n ° 1924/2006 and (EC) no 1925 / 2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Directive 87/250 / EEC, Council Directive 90/496 / EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10 / EC, Directive 2000/13 / EC of European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67 / EC and 2008/5 / EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of March 15, 2017 concerning official controls and other official activities serving to ensure compliance with food and feed legislation as well as the rules relating to animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (CE) no 1069/2009, (CE) no 107/2009, (EU) n ° 1151/2012, (EU) no 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031, the Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 as well as Council Directives 98/58 / EC, 1999/74 / EC, 2007/43 / EC, 2008/119 / EC and 2008/120 / EC, and repealing Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004, Council Directives

89/608 / EEC, 89/662 / EEC, 90/425 / EEC, 91/496 / EEC, 96/23 / EC, 96/93 / EC and 97/78 / EC as well as decision 92/438 / EEC of the Council (Regulation on official controls) and Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 of 22 October 2019 on the temporary reinforcement of official controls and on emergency measures governing entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries, implementing Regulations (EU) 2017/625 and (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulations (EC) No 669/2009, (EU) No 884/2014, (EU) 2015/175, (EU) 2017/186 and (EU) 2018/1660 of the Commission,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of June 20, 2019 relating to the transparency and sustainability of the Union's risk assessment in the food chain, and amending Regulations (EC) no 178/2002, (CE) no 1829/2003, (CE) no 1831/2003, (CE) n ° 2065/2003, (CE) n ° 1935/2004, (CE) no 1331/2008, (EC) no 1107/2009, (EU) 2015/2283 and Directive 2001/18 / EC,

Having regard to the resolution of the European Parliament of 14 January 2014 on the food crisis, fraud in the food chain and its inspection,

Considering that the European Union has, with the "hygiene package", general food legislation that is effective and essential to ensure a high level of food safety;

Considering that the method used by the European Union, consisting in separating the assessment, management and communication on risks and placing a significant part of the responsibility for health on the operators of the agri-food sector, allows it to avail of an unparalleled level of food security compared to the rest of the world;

Considering that the European Union has a high level of expertise in the area of food safety, thanks to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), to which, however, sufficient levels of funding must be guaranteed to ensure its independence and its ability to study future challenges for food;

Considering, however, that the information given to consumers can still be improved, particularly with regard to the origin of products;

Considering that the traceability of agri-food products is an imperative which still has significant flaws;

Considering that food fraud is still insufficiently prevented by the European Union, as recent examples have shown, in particular that of spoiled meat from Poland in 2019 or the so-called "horse meat" case in 2013 ;

Considering that food safety faces new challenges, in particular the increasing "food globalization", the use of new technologies, an increased demand for transparency and the persistence of cases of food fraud, which could justify an adaptation of this legislation, in particular with regard to the requirements for controls of imported agri-food products;

Considering that food safety should never be taken for granted, but rather requires permanent adaptation and monitoring by national and European authorities;

*On the traceability of agri-food products and the information given to consumers*

1. Notes that, although product traceability is generally ensured, certain operators in the agri-food sector continue to have difficulty in demonstrating full product traceability throughout the chain;

2. Notes that Member States may also have difficulties in establishing a chain of traceability for food products, as in the case of eggs contaminated with fipronil in 2017;

3. Regrets that the European Union's Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) is insufficiently coordinated with the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF);

4. Calls for an acceleration of European work on the labelling of the geographical origin of food products, in order to go beyond the possibilities given by the aforementioned Regulation (EU) no 1169/2011 of 25 October 2011 as well as the experiments in progress in some Member States;

5. Calls on the European Commission to promote the establishment of a "QR code" on food products allowing, in addition to labelling, the

displaying of all the information relating to traceability without overloading the labels;

*On the organization and means allocated to checks and to national health surveillance authorities*

6. Suggests removing the derogations allowing certain agri-food establishments, thanks to the aforementioned Regulation (EU) No 178/2002 of 28 January 2002, not to be subject to the approval procedure, a derogation which affects the overall efficiency of monitoring plans;

7. Proposes to the European Commission to examine the possibility of using new technologies, in particular *Blockchain* and artificial intelligence, to ensure predictive controls in the field of food safety;

8. Considers it essential to create a “European health police” which would go beyond simple control by audits, with remits relating to the repression of fraud;

9. Calls for national control authorities to be obliged to publish the results of inspections;

10. Notes the major differences that exist between the Member States in the structuring and organization of national public authorities responsible for food health control and the resulting lack of transparency;

11. Therefore proposes that European work be undertaken with a view to the harmonization of national food monitoring systems;

12. Notes that European and national authorities have significant difficulties in ensuring the traceability and safety of food imported from third countries;

13. Considers that the legal and technical arsenal available to the European Union to carry out controls on foodstuffs imported from third countries remains very insufficient;

14. Consequently requests that the European Union provides itself with both specific technical and financial means for the control of the conformity of imported agri-food products and a public and updated list of third countries upon which the controls at the borders would be reinforced

and for which import bans could be introduced quickly in the event of insufficient traceability;

*On the link between the common agricultural policy and general food legislation*

15. Notes the sharp distinction that exists between the upstream side of the food chain, governed by the common agricultural policy, and downstream, governed by general food legislation;

16. Considers that this segmentation is detrimental to the full integration of the entire agri-food sector into health safety policy and therefore to the application of the "farm-to-table" approach;

17. Calls therefore for the creation of a genuine "European agricultural and food policy", which will, in particular, allow health issues to be better taken into account within the common agricultural policy;

*On scientific expertise relating to food safety*

18. Notes that the aforementioned Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 of 20 June 2019 made it possible to start increasing the transparency of European scientific expertise in the food sector;

19. Stresses that the activity of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) is increasingly taken up by requests for the placing on the market of agri-food products formulated by manufacturers in this sector;

20. Also notes the growing dependence of EFSA on private research, due to the increasing specialization of this research;

21. Regrets that the budget allocated to EFSA does not allow it to have in-house expertise sufficiently developed to reduce its dependence on private research actors;

22. Proposes, in order to deal with this, to develop the financial contribution to the EFSA budget of bidding manufacturers who request a scientific opinion;

23. Also calls for the work of EFSA not to be guided only by the demands of industry, but also to take into account three future challenges: the "cocktail effects"; the presence of nano-materials in food and the so-called "novel foods";

24. Suggests clarifying the distribution of competences between EFSA and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and implementing the “one substance, one assessment” approach by delegating the competence of the expertise on all the chemicals, including for food, to ECHA;

*On food education and food waste*

25. Welcomes the fact that the European Union is devoting several programs and specific funds to food education;

26. Notes, however, that Member States' approaches to the issue of nutrition and food education continue to diverge;

27. Also emphasizes that these educational programs are oriented towards nutritional aspects and neglect education in food safety and the fight against food waste;

28. Proposes, therefore, to complete the European food education programs by adding education on food safety, the circular economy and the fight against food waste and by adding specific funding;

29. Supports the “waste package” presented by the European Commission in March 2017 as well as the establishment of the platform to combat food waste and the objectives presented in the “from farm to table” strategy;

30. Notes, however, the persistence of strong differences between the Member States in terms of legislation on food waste;

31. Proposes, in addition, an overhaul of the calculation and presentation of expiry dates on products, a source of significant waste, by replacing the current headings with “must be consumed before” and “is best until” ;

32. Calls for the definition of a new “anti-food waste directive” aimed at strengthening sanctions relating to the destruction of unsold goods, raising awareness among households and businesses, facilitating the donation of food products and strengthening the quality control of these donations.

*Paris, February 3, 2021.*

*President of the French National Assembly,*

*Signed:* RICHARD FERRAND





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