

# Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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



## Food Fraud Cases

### 08/09/17 - Serious suspicion of chaptalization in Spanish wine houses

The Spanish Association of Young Framers (Asociación Agraria de Jóvenes Agricultores, Asaja) announced that they collected serious evidence (documents and pictures) of chaptalization in ten wineries. Chaptalization is the process of adding sugar to wine in order to increase the alcohol content after fermentation. Chaptalization is regulated in Europe and can be applied only in well-defined situations.

[ABC](#)



### 12/09/17 - Fish company director sentenced for labelling fraud

The director of a company was sentenced to 300 hours of unpaid community work in Scotland. Between 2013 and 2014, the company used labels of other companies to by-pass the Russian law limiting the number of UK exporters and thus accessing fraudulently the Russian market. The total fraudulent exportations is estimated to 288 tons of salmon, worth about 210 000 GBP.

[Evening Express](#)

[BBC](#)



### 14/09/17 - Irregular DOP Fontina cheese seized in Valle d'Aosta

The Italian authorities seized around 500 kg of Fontina, a DOP cheese from Valle d'Aosta. It was produced in unregistered places, labelled with forged information and entered fraudulently the Fontina DOP production chain.

[Aosta Oggi](#)

[La Stampa](#)



### 21/09/17 - Untraceable fish from Greece seized

A refrigerated van was intercepted by Italian authorities in the port of Bari (Puglia). The suspicious attitude of the driver led the coast guards to investigate thoroughly the pay load and they discovered, hidden among regular products, 250 kg of unlabelled fish products. The driver and the Greek export company were fined 3000 EUR.

[Bari Today](#)



### 22/09/17 - Guatemalan coffee mixed with coffee from Vietnam and Uganda in Torino

In Torino, a coffee reseller mixed Guatemalan coffee with other coffee from Vietnam and Uganda while branding its product as 100% Arabica from Guatemala. The financial authorities seized 10 000 boxes of the suspected coffee and an additional 100 000 still to be packaged for a total value of 500 000 EUR. It is also worth mentioning that the packaging bore a counterfeited trademark.

[ANSA](#)



### 26/09/17 – 7000 "Fiore Sardo" PDO cheeses seized in Sardegna

The Sardinian authorities seized 7000 wheels of Fiore Sardo, a cheese with a protected origin. The two producing dairy farms were not accredited for the production of such cheese and re-used old labels to pass the product as authentic. Traceability problems were also reported.

[La Nuova Sardegna](#)



### 27/09/17 - European Union asks Spain to take actions against adulterated tuna

A recent type of fraud consisted in treating thawed red tuna with beet and vegetables broth to rejuvenate the fish. The nitrites contained in the vegetables give the tuna a bright red colour making it appear fresher. Besides the obvious consumer deception, cases of potentially linked intoxication are being more frequent: in 2017 so far, 171 suspicious cases were reported against 25 in 2016. Audit activities carried out by the Commission are planned during October.

[El Pais](#)

[FIS](#)



### 28/09/17 – Massive fraud on PGI wines in the Venice area

Following a tax audit, 60 people involved in wine production and marketing are being investigated after the discovery of a large scale fraud in the Italian wine sector. A company was falsely labelling a table wine with a PGI label. It appears that at least 254 000 bottles of the wine were already sold all across Europe. 150 000 fake PDO/PGI bottles could be seized in the network of the suspect company, unveiling a complex tax evasion mechanism used by the fraudsters.

[Treviso Today](#)

[La Stampa](#)



## Other interesting articles

### 04/09/17 – Origin labelling of tomatoes: also for tomato-derived products and other foods

The on-going work carried out by the Italian authorities to implement the mandatory labelling of tomatoes will be extended to tomato products such as tomato paste, pulps and sauce. It is estimated that 91 million kilograms of tomato paste is imported from China to Italy and relabelled as "Made in Italy" each year. The actions will also encompass food products such as processed fruits that also undergo the same kind of origin masking process.

[Coldiretti](#)



### 10/09/17 – British survey indicates loss of trust towards the food chain

The insurance company NFU Mutual released a study designed at probing the trust of the consumer towards different aspects of the food chain. The main results showed that the British consumer's trust is declining over the past five years.

[NFU Mutual](#)

[FWI](#)



### 19/09/17 – Iran does not fully benefit from the saffron market

This article explains that, despite being the world's largest producer of saffron, Iran does not benefit economically as much as one could think. It also sheds light on suspicious international trade routes where certain countries import massively the spice and re-export it, probably diluted or adulterated.

[Press TV](#)



### 19/09/17 – Each Mont-d'Or cheese will be digitally traceable

Each Mont-d'Or, a DOP Swiss cheese, will be assigned a traceability number that will allow tracing the production history, from the farm to the table. Any actor in the food chain will be able to control each production step as all the information for each cheese is stored and accessible from a centralized database. Initially designed to prevent sanitary issues, the system may also be an efficient way to control the authenticity of the cheese.

[Le Matin](#)



### 21/09/17 – A hand held device to detect fraudulent alcohol

Scientists of the University of Manchester developed a hand held device to fight alcohol fraud. Based on Raman spectroscopy, it is able to perform measures through glass or plastic containers, thus giving accurate results without opening any bottle. The methodology can differentiate between several brands of alcohol as well as detect the presence of contaminants such as methanol.

[University of Manchester](#)



**Disclaimer:** The selection 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 particular food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the truthfulness 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.

#### The European Commission's science and knowledge service

Joint Research Centre



Copyrights pictures:  
© ©Africa Studio-Fotolia.com  
© Alex White – Fotolia.com  
© UBE – Fotolia.com  
© Bernd Jürgens - Fotolia.com

**E-mail:**  
[jrc-f-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jrc-f-info@ec.europa.eu)