

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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Food Fraud Cases

Italian authorities have traced a supermarket selling food with wrong labelling. In particular, food was labelled as Italian when it rather came from another country. Some items had a PDO labelling although they did not fulfil the required criteria. Also, food that did not meet the required hygienic conditions was on offer.

[Ministero della Salute](#): 01/04/19



Various



Origin masking/
Mislabelling/
Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption

French police have dismantled an illegal market and seized one ton of rotten meat lacking traceability

[France Bleu](#): 08/04/19



Meat



Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption

Eight tons of spices of sub-standard quality and/or being adulterated have been seized in Pakistan. Also, 1600 litres of cooking oil was seized.

[Pakistan observer](#): 09/04/19



Spices



Mislabelling

French authorities in La Reunion have seized peanuts, vanilla, rice, curcuma and honey that came from Madagascar and which did not fulfil all the requirements established by law. In some cases, traceability documentation was missing, while in others, the seized products were not apt for human consumption.

[LINFO](#): 11/04/19



Various



Mislabelling/
Intentional
distribution of
products not fit for
consumption

Italian police have found that seven of the largest enterprises in the Italian olive oil sector distribute standard olive oil under the label "extra-virgin". This finding was based on following some indications published in a consumer magazine.

[Gazzetta della Sera](#): 12/04/19



Olive oil



Substitution/
Mislabelling

Students of a biology class at a college in London (Ontario, Canada) shockingly learnt that seven out of the nine sushi samples that they analysed were not what was indicated on the label. A common finding was the use of escolar mislabelled as white tuna. Less common was the use of tilapia, which is a naturally white fish, mislabelled as red tuna, implying the use of a red colourant.

[ctvnews](#): 13/04/19



Fish



Substitution

Controls carried out by Brazilian authorities detected an 11 % rate of substitution of the fish tested. Last year, a similar control showed a level of substitution of 21 %, implying a decrease in fraudulent cases.

[Istoe](#): 15/04/19



Fish



Substitution

Saudi Arabian authorities sized 88 containers of fake saffron (5 g each) in a specialised shop. The saffron did not meet standard specifications and contained industrial colourants.

[Saudi Gazette](#): 17/04/2019



Saffron



Counterfeit

A research institute in the UK found that two out of three pizzas and other products sold in restaurants and supermarkets that claim to be produced from buffalo mozzarella rather contain mozzarella produced entirely or partially from cows' milk.

[Food manufacture](#): 17/04/19



Cheese



Substitution

A producer of manuka honey in New Zealand has admitted to adding an extraneous substance to increase the volume of honey and ultimately to maximise economic gain.

[News Now](#): 18/04/19



Honey



Dilution

An NGO claims that one out of three seafood samples sold in South Korea is mislabelled. Frequently, species subject to overfishing are used to replace the one indicated on the label.

[Unecurrentnews](#): 30/04/19



Seafood



Substitution

Other interesting articles

08/04/2019 – The tomato fraud.

The Raf tomato variety grows in poor soils, without rain and tolerates saline water. Raf tomatoes are the result of the crossing of different varieties and are resistant to fusarium. The yield is low, but the prices are very high. This explains why about 50 % of the so-called Raf tomatoes in the market tend to be something else.

[La Vanguardia](#)



Spain



Tomatoes

15/04/2019 – 2018 Report on EU Food Fraud Network published.

The report on the EU Food Fraud Network about food fraud in Europe in 2018 has been published. Two hundred and thirty-four requests of collaboration were registered in 2018. Most of the cases dealt with fish and fish products, followed by meat and oils and fats.

[Eurocarne](#)



EU



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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