

**Basic information**

**2024/0318(COD)**

Procedure completed

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)  
Regulation

Cooperation among enforcement authorities regarding unfair trading practices in the agri-food supply chain





See also Directive 2019/633 [2018/0082\(COD\)](#)

**Subject**

3.10.03 Marketing and trade of agricultural products and livestock  
3.45.03 Financial management of undertakings, business loans, accounting  
3.45.05 Business policy, e-commerce, after-sales service, commercial distribution

**Key players**

European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<a href="#">AGRI</a> Agriculture and Rural Development		BONACCINI Stefano (S&D)	09/04/2025
			Shadow rapporteur DO NASCIMENTO CABRAL Paulo (EPP) DELOGE Valérie (P/E) BUDA Waldemar (ECR) HAYER Valérie (Renew) HÄUSLING Martin (Greens /EFA) FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left)	
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<a href="#">IMCO</a> Internal Market and Consumer Protection		DIBRANI Adnan (S&D)	12/03/2025
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Agriculture and Rural Development		HANSEN Christophe	
European Economic and Social Committee				

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/12/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0576 	Summary
20/01/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
15/07/2025	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
15/07/2025	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
30/07/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0153/2025	
08/09/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
11/09/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/09/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72 - vote)		
12/02/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0048/2026	Summary
12/02/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/02/2026	Debate in Parliament		
05/03/2026	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/03/2026	Final act signed		
20/03/2026	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2024/0318(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	See also Directive 2019/633 2018/0082(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	<a href="#">European Economic and Social Committee</a>
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/10/01663


Documentation gateway			
European Parliament			

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE773.115	28/04/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE773.343	20/05/2025	
Committee opinion	IMCO	PE770.204	27/06/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0153/2025	30/07/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0048/2026	12/02/2026	Summary

#### Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2025)005757	01/12/2025	
Draft final act	00057/2025/LEX	06/03/2026	

#### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2024)0576 	10/12/2024	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2026)03-20	20/03/2026	

#### National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2024)0576	05/03/2025	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2024)0576	16/04/2025	

#### Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4652/2024	27/03/2025	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0032/2025	14/05/2025	

#### Additional information

Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	07/02/2025
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

**Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure**

## Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
BONACCINI Stefano	Rapporteur	AGRI	05/11/2025	SEC NEWGATE EU
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	15/10/2025	Fédération des Entreprises du Commerce et de la Distribution
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	10/10/2025	Anheuser-Busch InBev nv/sa
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	02/10/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	18/09/2025	Fédération des Entreprises du Commerce et de la Distribution
BONACCINI Stefano	Rapporteur	AGRI	04/09/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	03/09/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques
DELOGE Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	02/09/2025	Association des Centres Distributeurs E.Leclerc
CORMAND David	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	IMCO	23/06/2025	Stichting Fair Trade Advocacy Office
BONACCINI Stefano	Rapporteur	AGRI	17/06/2025	EuroCommerce
BONACCINI Stefano	Rapporteur	AGRI	05/06/2025	Assomela
CORMAND David	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	IMCO	27/05/2025	Stichting Fair Trade Advocacy Office
DIBRANI Adnan	Rapporteur	IMCO	13/05/2025	Livsmedelsföretagen
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	06/05/2025	Association des Centres Distributeurs E.Leclerc
DELOGE Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	06/05/2025	Association des Centres Distributeurs E.Leclerc
DIBRANI Adnan	Rapporteur for opinion	IMCO	23/04/2025	Livsmedelsföretagen
DIBRANI Adnan	Rapporteur for opinion	IMCO	23/04/2025	AIM - European Brands Association Essity Aktiebolag (publ)
DIBRANI Adnan	Rapporteur	AGRI	03/04/2025	Independent Retail Europe (formerly UGAL - Union of Groups of Independent Retailers of Europe)
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	27/03/2025	FoodDrinkEurope
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	17/03/2025	Fédération du Commerce et de la Distribution
DIBRANI Adnan	Rapporteur	AGRI	13/03/2025	Lantbrukarnas Riksförbund
HAYER Valérie	Shadow rapporteur	AGRI	24/02/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques

## Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives

WALSMANN Marion	18/03/2026	MARKENVERBAND
JOUVET Pierre	11/02/2026	AIM - European Brands Association
KÖHLER Stefan	04/02/2026	AIM - European Brands Association
NOICHL Maria	28/01/2026	ALDI Nord Holding Stiftung & Co. KG ALDI SÜD Dienstleistungs-SE & Co. oHG
JOUVET Pierre	21/01/2026	FoodDrinkEurope
CASSART Benoit	17/12/2025	FEVIA FoodDrinkEurope
BONACCINI Stefano	03/12/2025	AIM - European Brands Association PepsiCo
CRESPO DÍAZ Carmen	22/10/2025	ANGED
BONACCINI Stefano	15/10/2025	Moet Hennessy
BONACCINI Stefano	15/10/2025	Associazione Nazionale Città del Vino
BONACCINI Stefano	14/10/2025	Federvini FEVS FEV
BONACCINI Stefano	07/10/2025	Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti Farm Europe
BONACCINI Stefano	07/10/2025	EU Affairs CGIAR
KÖHLER Stefan	11/09/2025	Handelsverband Deutschland
BERNHUBER Alexander	11/09/2025	REWE Group
KÖHLER Stefan	09/09/2025	REWE
BERNHUBER Alexander	03/09/2025	Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich
AGIUS Peter	13/05/2025	European Food Forum
PENNELLE Gilles	06/05/2025	Association des Centres Distributeurs E.Leclerc
AGIUS Peter	05/05/2025	Malta Business Bureau (MBB)
AGIUS Peter	30/04/2025	EPP Farmers Informal Meeting
AGIUS Peter	07/04/2025	Malta Business Bureau
JOUVET Pierre	07/04/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques
NOICHL Maria	26/03/2025	Bundesverband des Deutschen Lebensmittelhandels e.V.
BERNHUBER Alexander	13/03/2025	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich
CÂRCIU Gheorghe	12/03/2025	AIM - European Brands Association
JOUVET Pierre	11/03/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques 862558395005-29
NOICHL Maria	04/03/2025	ALDI Nord Holding Stiftung & Co. KG
NARDELLA Dario	04/02/2025	European Committee of the Regions
HAYER Valérie	13/01/2025	ILEC- La Voix des marques
WALSMANN Marion	11/12/2024	EDEKA ZENTRALE Stiftung & Co. KG

#### Final act

Regulation 2026/0697  
OJ OJ L 20.03.2026

# Cooperation among enforcement authorities regarding unfair trading practices in the agri-food supply chain

2024/0318(COD) - 10/12/2024 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to improve and increase cooperation between enforcement authorities responsible for the enforcement of the prohibition of unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain required Member States to designate enforcement authorities to ensure the effective enforcement of the prohibitions laid down in the Directive. The enforcement authorities can act either on their own initiative or on the basis of complaints by parties affected by unfair trading practices in the agricultural and food supply chain.

The Directive also introduced rules related to the powers of enforcement authorities ensuring that those authorities can investigate, collect information and order the termination of an unfair trading practice.

In addition, the Directive required the enforcement authorities to cooperate effectively with each other and with the Commission, and to provide each other with mutual assistance in investigations that have a cross-border dimension. However, the experience of enforcement authorities is that gathering information, finding an infringement and imposing and enforcing fines and other equally effective penalties can be difficult where the buyer is located in another Member State. **The ability of the enforcement authorities to cooperate in such cases should therefore be strengthened.**

**CONTENT:** the Commission is proposing a Regulation (like for other such EU cooperation instruments, notably those on customs cooperation, VAT cooperation, feed and food controls, and consumer protection), as the proposed rules essentially provide for directly applicable cooperation arrangements between public authorities.

The proposal:

- complements the Directive with the view to ensuring that the enforcement authorities have the necessary tools to gather information, find an infringement and impose and enforce fines and other equally effective penalties against buyers located in another Member State;
- aims to improve and increase cooperation between enforcement authorities, while maintaining a minimal interference in the legal orders of the Member States;
- aims to ensure that a legal basis is provided to enable exchanges of information and requests for enforcement measures, for which the requested authority will follow its national rules.

More specifically, the proposed Regulation lays down:

- procedural rules for exchanges of information between enforcement authorities. Requests for information are to be made in **writing**, stating the corresponding provision of the Directive, as well as the national law. The collection of the requested information is to be made by the requested enforcement authority and used by the applicant enforcement authority in accordance with their national laws;
- provisions to allow an enforcement authority to enforce, at the request of another, in accordance with the national rules of its Member State, final decisions imposing fines or other equally effective penalties and interim measures;
- rules allowing the enforcement authorities to agree on the language to be used in all notifications, requests and communications between them, as well as rules in case of disagreement among them in order to ensure smooth cooperation;
- that an unfair trading practice with a cross-border dimension, involving at least three Member States should be considered as a widespread unfair trading practice;
- that in cases of widespread unfair trading practices, the enforcement authorities of the Member States concerned should be able to issue alerts, engage in coordinated actions, and designate a coordinator to coordinate the cooperation among the relevant authorities in whose territories the practice may be taking place;
- procedures for the coordination of investigation and enforcement measures relating to widespread unfair trading practices with a cross-border dimension should be laid down.

# Cooperation among enforcement authorities regarding unfair trading practices in the agri-food supply chain

The European Parliament adopted, by 555 votes to 0, with 26 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on cooperation among enforcement authorities responsible for the enforcement of Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading by amending the Commission's proposal.

### ***Object***

The proposed regulation aims to **combat practices that grossly deviate from good commercial conduct**, that are contrary to good faith and fair dealing and that are unilaterally imposed by one trading partner on another. To this end, it lays down certain rules under which enforcement authorities designated by their Member States as responsible for the enforcement of the prohibition of unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain under Directive (EU) 2019/633 cooperate and coordinate actions with each other to ensure the effectiveness of that Directive.

The regulation is based on the **general principle** that enforcement authorities should cooperate with each other to prevent or stop unfair trading practices with a cross-border dimension occurring on their territories.

### ***Information confidentiality***

The amended text introduces a new provision stipulating that, for the purposes of the regulation, the enforcement authorities should have the power to exchange information and use as evidence any factual or legal element, including confidential information. This information may only be used as evidence for the purposes of enforcing the regulation and for the purpose for which it was collected by the requested enforcement authority. The information should only be used by the enforcement authorities with due regard to the legitimate interests of a natural or legal person, including the protection of trade secrets and intellectual property rights.

### ***Requests for information***

At the request of an applicant enforcement authority, a requested enforcement authority should, without delay, and at the latest **90 days** (extendable by 30 days by mutual agreement), provide the applicant enforcement authority with the information requested to establish whether an unfair trading practice with a cross-border dimension has occurred.

Where the requested enforcement authority is not in possession of all the necessary information, its reply to that request may contain only partial information or state the absence of the requested information. The requested enforcement authority may decide to collect the missing information, in which case it should inform the applicant enforcement authority of its decision and should share the information collected with that authority.

At the request and on behalf of an applicant enforcement authority, the requested enforcement authority should take **investigative measures**, in accordance with the powers set out in Directive (EU) 2019/633 and in accordance with its national law, in order to determine whether an unfair trading practice with a cross-border dimension has occurred or is occurring.

### ***Costs***

Under the new rules, enforcement authorities should **not impose any fees** on suppliers to recover costs related to the cross-border dimension of an unfair trading practice. They should (with some exceptions) waive all claims between them for the reimbursement of costs incurred in applying this Regulation.

However, the requested enforcement authority may request the applicant enforcement authority to bear reasonable additional costs in full or in part, including translation costs, labour costs and administrative costs. In such cases, the applicant enforcement authority should bear those costs, as requested.

The requested enforcement authority may recover the full costs incurred from the payment of fines collected on behalf of the applicant enforcement authority. If the amount of the fines does not cover the reasonable additional costs incurred, or if the requested enforcement authority is unsuccessful in collecting the fines, the requested enforcement authority may request the applicant enforcement authority to bear the costs incurred in full or in part.

### ***Procedure for requests for mutual assistance***

The applicant enforcement authority should, when making a request for mutual assistance state as the legal basis for that request this Regulation and provide any additional relevant information necessary to enable the requested enforcement authority to fulfil the request.

A requested enforcement authority may **refuse to comply** with a request for enforcement measures only if, having consulted with the applicant enforcement authority, it appears that criminal investigations or judicial proceedings have already been initiated, or a judgment has been given, against the same buyer in respect of the same unfair trading practice that involves the same supplier and the same period of the unfair trading practice covered by those criminal investigations or judicial proceedings, or a court settlement has been reached with the same buyer in respect of the same unfair trading practice, before the judicial authorities in the Member State of the requested enforcement authority.

### ***Alert system***

An enforcement authority should without delay alert the Commission and all other enforcement authorities that a widespread unfair trading practice with a cross-border dimension might be occurring, regardless of whether it is occurring only within the Union or both within the Union and in one or more third countries.

***Cooperation in relation to suppliers or buyers established outside the Union***

When an unfair commercial practice involves suppliers or buyers established outside the European Union, the enforcement authorities may:

- **request information** from an enforcement authority of another Member State to establish whether an unfair trading practice has occurred or is occurring in the Member State of the applicant enforcement authority;
- **alert the Commission** and other enforcement authorities concerned when it suspects that an unfair trading practice towards a supplier or by a buyer established outside the Union is occurring and that that unfair trading practice might concern buyers or suppliers established in at least three Member States.

Where the buyer established outside the Union fails to cooperate, the enforcement authority should without delay alert the Commission and all other enforcement authorities that that buyer has failed to designate a contact person responsible for the Union. The Commission may supplement the alert with any information that is likely to facilitate rapid, appropriate action by enforcement authorities.