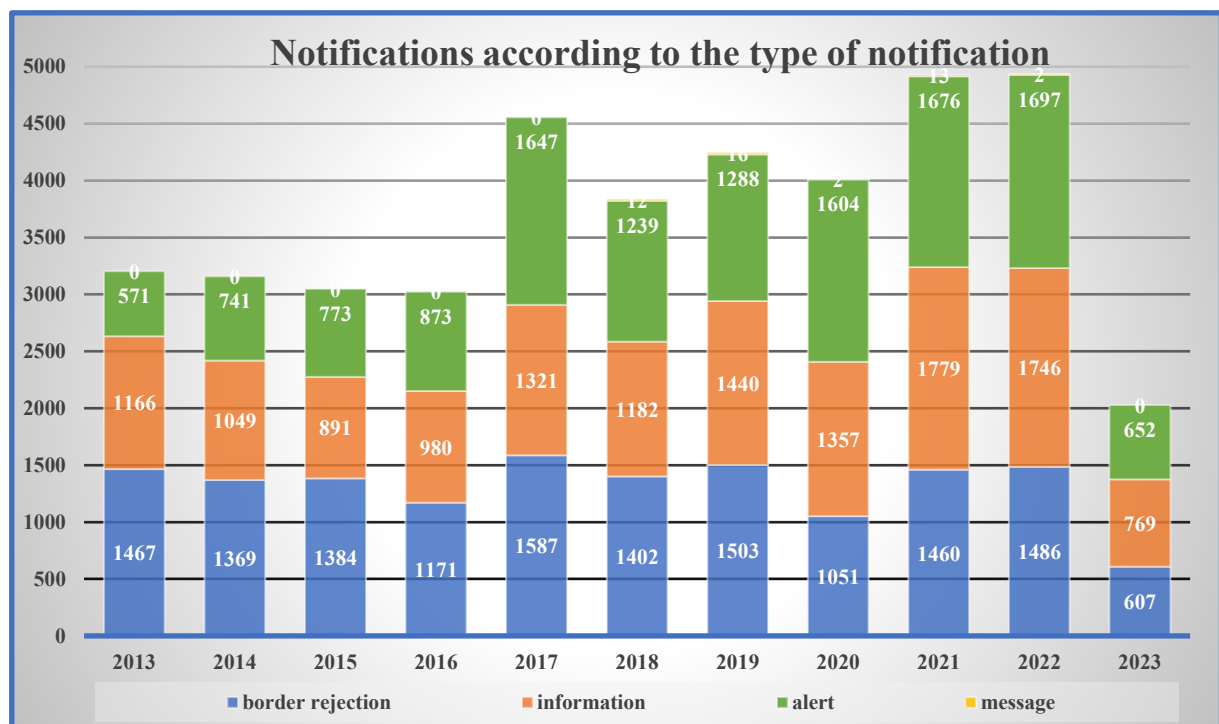
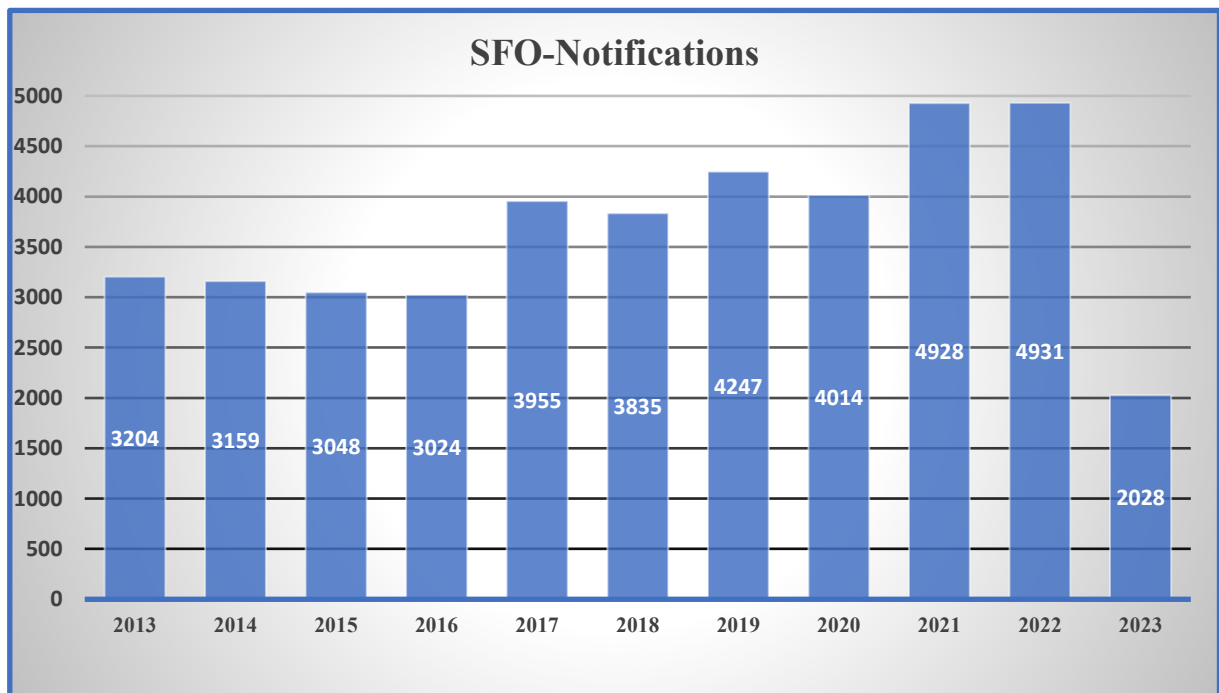
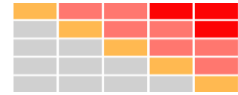




Safefood-Online Newsletter





Dear Safefood-Online users,

In May there were 440 new notifications in the Safefood-Online database. You will find the evaluation of the notifications under point 1 in this newsletter.

Under item 2 "News on pesticides and contaminants" we inform about the new regulation on contaminants (EU) 2023/915 as well as about 2 regulations with new or changed maximum levels for pesticide residues. Furthermore, we report on the Proficiency Tests 2022 for mycotoxins and plant toxins of the German Reference Laboratory.

Under points 3 and 4 we have again summarized the latest news from the media on the topics of Food Safety and Food Fraud.

The European Commission publishes a newsletter on environmental priority issues. The newsletter can be subscribed [here](#). This requires an existing [EU account](#).

"Highlight" in the April issue is the citizens' initiative "Save Bees and Farmers": One million signatures highlights citizens' concern to save bees".

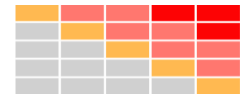
The Commission welcomes this [European citizens' initiative](#), as the threat to the existence of pollinators is a threat to food safety and life on our planet. The Commission calls on the European Parliament and the Council to help translate these concerns into legislation by quickly reaching an ambitious agreement on the ongoing legislative proposals.

This newsletter was launched in early 2022. All previous issues can be found [here](#). EFSA has published a [revised guidance](#) on the risk assessment plant protection products on bees.

We hope that this issue of the Safefood-Online Newsletter will also be of interest to you and, of course, we welcome your opinion, as this is the only way we can improve.

Your Safefood-Online Team



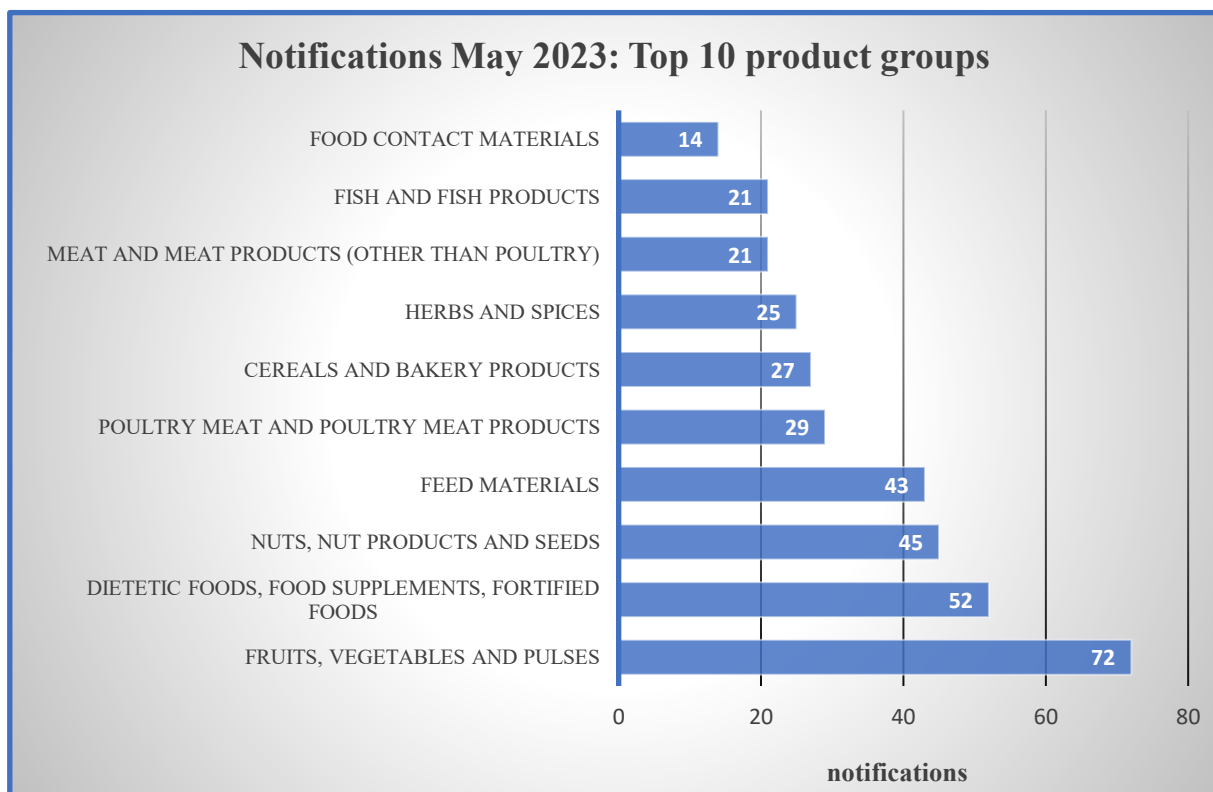


1 Notifications in Safefood Online: May 2023

There was a significant increase in the number of notifications in May: 440 new reports in May compared to 306 in April.

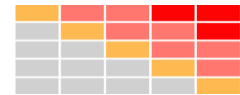
Note: Only the RASFF reports are included in the comparison, as the reports from the EU Monthly Food Fraud Summary Report are not published until the middle of the following month.

Fruits, vegetables and legumes ranked first in the evaluation of notifications by product group with 72 notifications. Most of the notifications (51) concerned findings of pesticides, 22 of which concerned chlorpyrifos. The product group dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods followed with 45 notifications and the product group nuts, nut products and seeds with 45 notifications in second and third place:

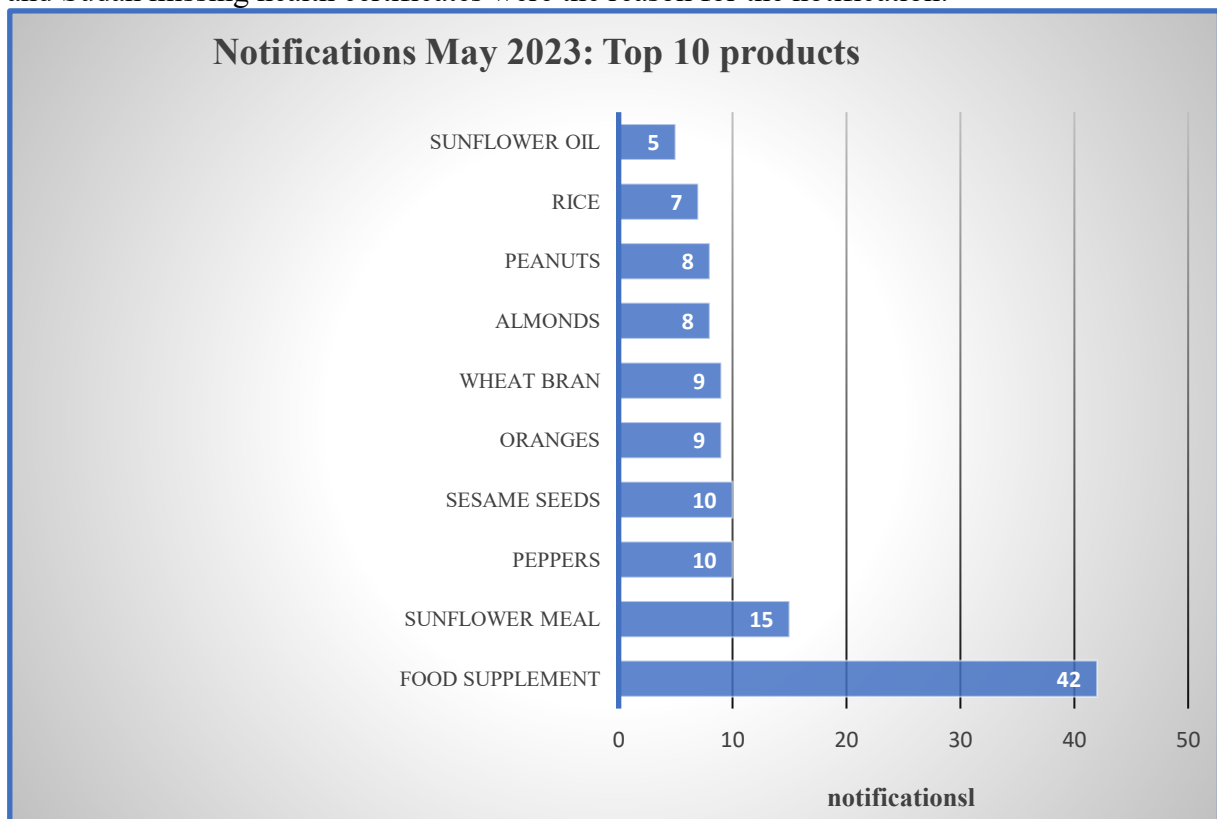


Of the 52 notifications in the product group dietetic foods, food supplements and fortified foods, 13 notifications are related to food supplements due to the use of *Mitragyna speciosa* (Kratom). The leaves of *Mitragyna speciosa* contain indole and oxindole alkaloids. *Mitragyna* acts similarly to cocaine on the central nervous system. *Mitragyna* is therefore a psychoactive substance. In the context of the “European Food Risk Assessment Fellowship Programme (EU-FORA) a report was published in January, 2022, regarding the [“Assessment of the possible health risks associated with the consumption of botanical preparations of *Mytragyna speciosa* \(kratom\)](#)”.

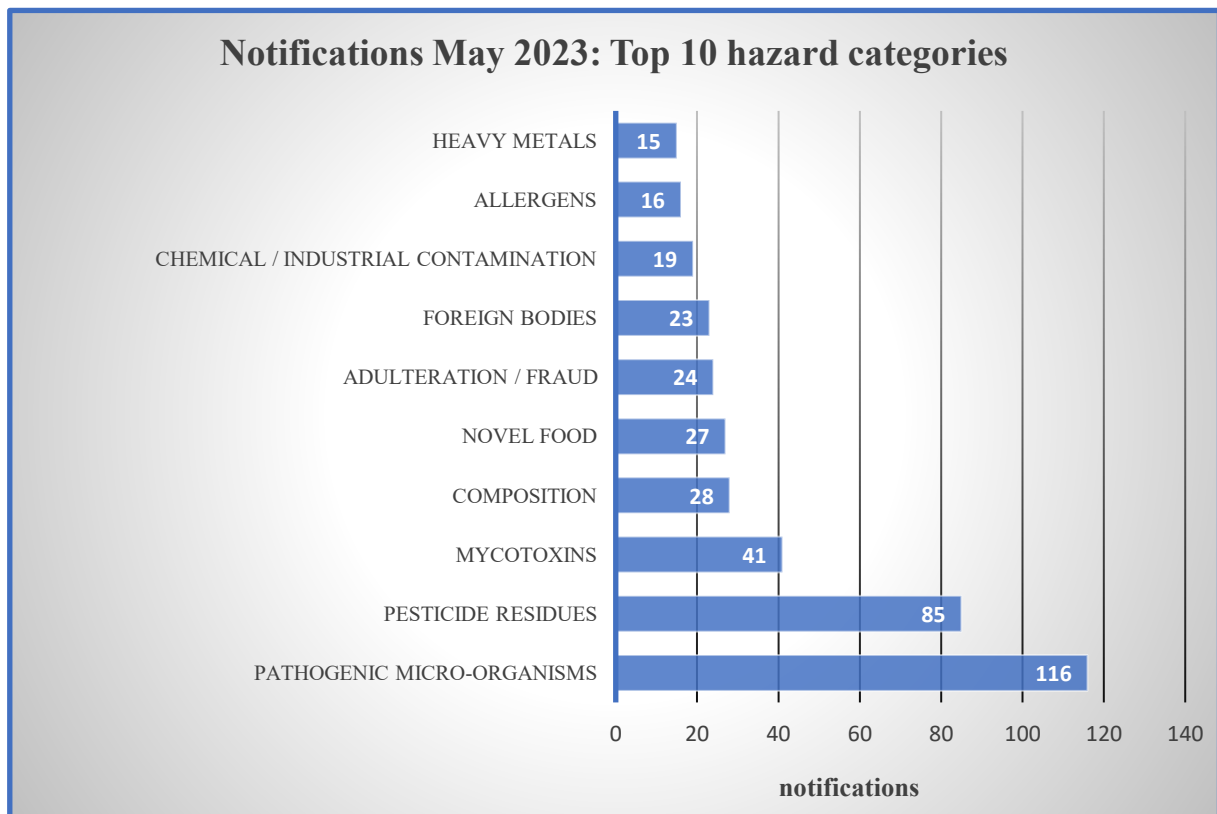
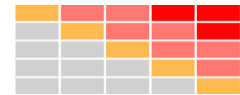
In May, food supplements were in first place in the evaluation by product with 42 notifications, followed by sunflower press cake (feed materials) with 15 notifications (of which 14



notifications were due to moulds). Here, all products came from Ukraine. In third place were sesame seeds with 10 notifications. In 9 notifications with origin of the products from Nigeria and Sudan missing health certificates were the reason for the notification:



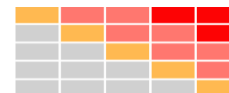
In the evaluation of the notifications according to hazard categories, pathogenic micro-organisms are at the top with 116 notifications. They are followed by pesticides (85 notifications) and mycotoxins (41 notifications):



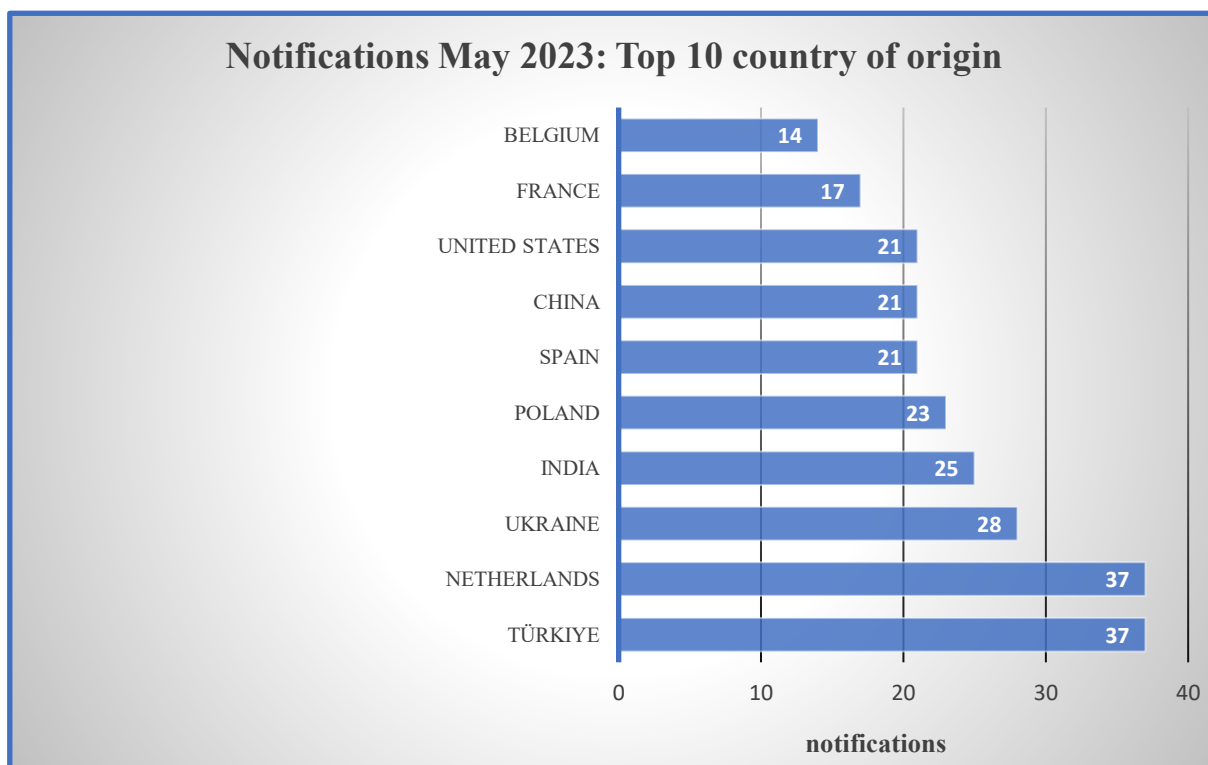
The evaluation of the notifications according to hazards gives the following picture:



As in April, most of the notifications in May were for Salmonella (52 notifications), chlorpyrifos (38 notifications) and aflatoxins (34 notifications).



Finally, the evaluation of the notifications according to the country of origin of the products. In 37 notifications, the products came from Türkiye (including 10 notifications on peppers due to pesticide residues) or from the Netherlands (including 12 notifications due to *Mitragyna speciosa*) and in 28 notifications from Ukraine (including 14 notifications due to moulds in sunflower meal and 4 notifications due to chlorpyrifos in sunflower oil):



2 Update on pesticides and contaminants

2.1 New Regulation (EU) 2023/915 on contaminants

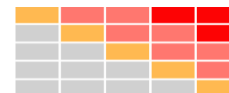
[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/915](#) on maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs, published on 05 May 2023, replaces the previous "[Contaminants-Regulation](#)" (EC) 1881/2006.

In Article 1, reference is made to the EU Basic Regulation 178/2002 for definitions such as food or final consumer. Likewise, for "processing" or "unprocessed products", for example, reference is made to Regulation (EC) 852/2004 (Hygiene of foodstuffs).

With the regulation, there are now rules in Article 3 for dried, diluted, processed and compound foods.

Annex II contains a correspondence table of the articles from the new and the old Regulation.

The Regulation entered into force on May, 25 (20 days after publication). For more information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.



2.2 Regulation (EU) 2023/1029

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1029](#), Annexes III and V of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 have been amended with regard to maximum residue levels of phosmet in or on certain products. The new regulations will apply from September 15, 2023. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

2.3 Regulation (EU) 2023/1042

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1042](#) contains amendments to Annex II of Regulation (EC) 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels of folpet in or on certain products. The regulation will enter into force on June 15, 2023. For further information, please refer to the linked text of the regulation.

2.4 Report on the 2022 Proficiency Test of the German Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins

The National Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins organized a proficiency test (PT) for the determination of pyrrolizidine (PA) and tropane alkaloids (TA) in herbs and spices. Twenty-two laboratories from Germany participated.

For more information on the results, please refer to the [linked report](#).

Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung

Report on the 2022 Proficiency Test of the German Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins and Plant Toxins

Determination of pyrrolizidine alkaloids and tropane alkaloids in herbs and spices



3 NEWS – Food Safety

[Denmark: Salmonella outbreak sickens 16 and kills one. Authorities are investigating the outbreak](#)

[US: Flour recall after testing finds Salmonella](#)

[Finland: Recalls declined in Finland for the first time in several years](#)

[Canada: Chilli powder recalled due to Bacillus cereus contamination](#)

[EFSA: Better housing needed for dairy cows, ducks, geese, and quail to improve welfare](#)

[WHO advises not to use non-sugar sweeteners for weight control in newly released guideline](#)

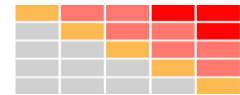
[Australia: Allergen issues continue to dominate recalls](#)

[US: mixed leafy greens will be the first consumer food in the US developed using the genome-editing \(CRISPR\) crossbreeding technology. The product is marketed as having double the nutritional value of traditional romaine lettuce](#)

[No to pesticide cuts? No gene editing proposal, EU-Commission official warns](#)

[Organic farming and gene editing: Is coexistence possible?](#)

[EFSA: Epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2022](#)



PARC (Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals): developing and implementing chemical risk assessment in Europe

UK: An increase in a type of E. coli over the past decade has prompted scientists to warn of an emerging threat to public health in England.

4 NEWS – Food Fraud

India: The Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA) busted an adulteration scam and seized 3,900 kg of contaminated chili powder

Pakistan: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) disposed of 7,900 counterfeit soft drink bottles ready to be sold in the market. The fake drinks were prepared with non-food grade colours, harmful chemicals and contaminated water

UK: The head of the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) has launched a review of the processes it uses to tackle incidents of food fraud, in the wake of the suspected case of meat fraud that emerged earlier this year

Spain: Spanish authorities have confiscated more than 16 tons of food that they said was unfit for human consumption

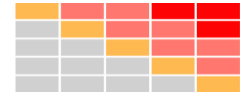
In a joint intervention, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Bulgarian authorities intercepted around 11 tonnes of illicit pesticides in Bulgaria earlier this month. Various kinds of violations were detected.

Make it, don't fake it: Preventing the circulation of unsafe food

5 European Food Safety Authority (EFSA): New journal “Food Risk Assess Europe (FRAE)”

EFSA has launched a new journal, Food Risk Assess Europe (FRAE). The new series is a freely accessible collection of selected scientific articles from the national food safety authorities within the EU. The aim is to promote and strengthen the exchange of information between member states. FRAE also provides English summaries of the articles as needed. Articles can be filtered by country and language.

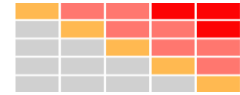




The [first issue of FRAE](#) was published in March 2023. An email notification can be set up to be informed when new articles are published or when a new issue of FRAE is published.

[An article](#) in the current issue was provided by the Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition and deals with the determination of the minimum shelf life of frozen meat in supermarkets.

Pease forward your suggestions, questions and requests regarding this newsletter directly to:
info@safefood-online.de



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