

FOOD AND FEED SAFETY SIMPLIFICATION OMNIBUS

Key points for consumers

Why it matters to consumers

Administrative simplification can support authorities and businesses in the food system. However, simplification must not reduce inspection intensity, weaken transparency, or undermine pesticides' risk assessment. Co-legislators must maintain a high level of consumer protection through targeted improvements and additional safeguards.

The table assesses the proposals with the following symbols, illustrating:



what BEUC supports



what can be improved
and is missing



what BEUC considers problematic

TOPICS

RECOMMENDATIONS

PESTICIDE RENEWALS

The proposal shifts from systematic renewal assessment to reviewing only if new scientific evidence indicates risks. Member States no longer have to use the latest evidence in national pesticide authorisations.

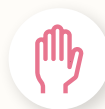


The EU must maintain time-limited approvals and mandatory reassessment at set intervals. Shifting to unlimited approvals with reviews mainly triggered by new evidence makes the system more dependent on external risk-detection. This could allow longer use of harmful substances.

Member States should be able to use the latest scientific evidence for national re-authorisations rather than being bound to potentially outdated or non-existent EU assessments. **National authorities must be able to start a review at any time** and act without delays when concerns arise.

PESTICIDE RESIDUE MONITORING AND MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS (MRLS)

The proposal simplifies sampling, reporting and follow-ups, assuming risk-based controls will allow authorities to focus controls on higher-risk areas. MRLs remain untouched.



The EU must maintain current monitoring intensity across the bloc. It should **keep the number of samples, the range of substances tested, and the follow-ups** that authorities carry out when limits are exceeded.

Regular monitoring identifies emerging risks and supports the precautionary principle. A reactive system exposes consumers to greater risks, even if MRLs remain unchanged.

FEED LABELLING AND TRACEABILITY

The proposal simplifies documentation requirements and promotes digital tools.



When used, digital tools for labelling and traceability must **maintain information reliability and accessibility**. Feed is the food chain's starting point; traceability failures delay investigations during safety incidents. Prevention must remain the priority over corrective actions once products are already on the market.

A fallback paper system is necessary to ensure access continuity if digital tools no longer work.

TOPICS

RECOMMENDATIONS

OFFICIAL CONTROLS AND MEMBERS STATES' FLEXIBILITY

The proposal grants greater control flexibility with no binding requirement to maintain current EU-wide and national protection levels.



Simplifying procedures can reduce checks and slow enforcement. The EU must ensure that greater procedural flexibility does **not reduce inspections or weaken enforcement**.

The bloc should require **sufficient and well-trained staff** in competent authorities.

Monitor implementation differences to **guarantee equal protection** across the Single Market.

BORDER CONTROLS AND RELEASE OF CONSIGNMENTS

The proposal speeds up border control handlings, allowing more flexibility on consignments during checks.



Policymakers should **only allow the partial release of consignments only when each portion has completed all required checks**, including laboratory tests where relevant. This may minimise unnecessary food waste and price pressure while keeping high standards. **Verification must always precede market entry** for each portion released. Prevention must remain the priority over corrective actions once products are already on the market.

The EU should **maintain clear traceability between released and non-released parts**, since authorities may struggle to cleanly separate compliant from non-compliant food parcels.

MAD COW DISEASE (BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY – BSE) SURVEILLANCE

The proposal updates BSE monitoring and reporting to align it with the disease's current status and reduce administration.



The EU should maintain current reporting obligations and surveillance requirements to keep consistent monitoring across the bloc.

The EU's monitoring system is central to consumer confidence in food safety, and its credibility depends on detecting rare or unusual cases quickly and consistently across the EU.

