The annual monitoring report on pesticides residues of the European Food Safety Authority contains the results of the testing conducted by the Member States, which amounts to more than 90,000 samples annually. Malta reported in 2018 an exceedance rate for maximum residue levels (MRLs) of 4.3%, comparable to 3.4% in 2017 and much lower than 11.3% in 2016. None of the substances for which MRLs were exceeded had a fungicidal or bactericidal function: exceedances were found for insecticides only (chlorfenapyr, chlorpyrifos, dimethoate).

Access of farmers to pesticides within the EU is facilitated by the zonal system and the mutual recognition of authorisations introduced by Regulation 1107/2009. The latter allows a Member State to authorise plant protection products that are already authorised in another Member State. Malta is part of the Southern zone and can recognise authorisations of plant protection products granted by other Members of that zone.

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 provides that food information must not be misleading as to the characteristics of the food, its identity, country of origin or place of provenance. The responsibility for enforcing the Regulation lies with the Member States.

Empowering consumers to make informed, healthy and sustainable food choices is one of the priorities of the Farm to Fork Strategy. The Commission will consider to propose the extension of mandatory origin or provenance indications to certain products, while also considering impacts on the single market.

The Commission performs audits on how tests/controls and laboratory facilities operate in the Member States, and it organises trainings (via the Better Training for Safer Food Programme) to promote harmonised practices.

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4 Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Portugal.
6 https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en