

EN

E-000581/2023

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.3.2023)

All food placed on the EU market has to comply with the labelling requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011¹ (FIC Regulation). The FIC Regulation provides for a high level of consumer protection concerning food information and lays down the means to guarantee the right of consumers in this regard. It also requires the mandatory indication of all ingredients on pre-packed food and provides that mandatory food information shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and where appropriate, indelible. In the case of food containing insects, apart from the specific name of the insect as specified in the authorisations granted under the Novel Food Regulation², the food shall also bear a statement, in close proximity to the list of ingredients, that this ingredient may cause allergic reactions. The Commission is not currently considering additional labelling requirements for foods containing insects, since the existing legal framework ensures that consumers are informed about the content of the food.

The authorisation of insects as novel foods is granted by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Novel Food Regulation³, on the basis of a thorough safety evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority, following applications by food business operators. The Commission is aware of campaigns of various organisations and stakeholders, and of scientific evidence that consider that the current food consumption patterns are unsustainable, and a broad food systems approach is necessary, as captured in the Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy⁴. However, these factors are not considered in the authorisation procedure under the Novel Food Regulation.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32011R1169>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/2283/oj>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32015R2283>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0381>