

**Question for written answer E-000102/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Roman Haider (ID)**

Subject:     Origin of processed foods

In the case of processed foods such as tinned tomatoes, it is not always easy for consumers to see where the food originally comes from, as there is no general obligation in EU food law to indicate the country of origin of the ingredients listed on the label. Most tinned tomatoes come from Italy, but the tomatoes they contain come from China, the world's leading tomato producer<sup>1</sup>. Tomatoes, both fresh and processed, are the most popular vegetable in most of the Union, but most of them have to be imported from other Member States as well as from third countries due to climatic conditions, but also for cost reasons. The current rules for labelling processed foods are often very confusing for consumers and labelling such as 'from EU countries'/'from non-EU countries' is not very helpful.

1. Does the Commission envisage measures to promote the production of tomatoes in the Union?
2. What is the Commission's position on introducing a requirement that the entire production chain of processed foods be indicated on labelling, too?
3. Is the Commission in possession of any data on counterfeit processed foods on the Union market?

Submitted: 12.1.2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bild.de/geld/wirtschaft/wirtschaft/was-kommt-in-die-dose-italien-tomaten-made-in-china-86689418.bild.html>