

Decree of 5 January 2026 suspending the import, introduction and placing on the market, free of charge or for a fee, in France, of foodstuffs from countries outside the European Union containing residues of certain active substances in plant protection products that are prohibited for use in the European Union.

Press release Rungis, 9 January 2026

'A measure that contravenes European rules and penalises French consumers'

The professionals belonging to the French Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Importers (CSIF) have taken note of the decree published on 7 January 2026 concerning the suspension of imports of foodstuffs from third countries.

The CSIF is surprised to discover a measure, taken without any consultation, that contravenes European rules on both the free movement of goods and health regulations.

The CSIF questions the urgency, or even haste, with which this provision was taken. Indeed, European rules concerning these products have been determined by the EFSA in order to protect consumer health and have been in place for several years.

The CSIF points out that companies importing fresh fruit and vegetables and their producer partners are fully committed to certified quality control procedures, as products from third countries must comply with European Union rules in order to be marketed there.

This decree directly affects 56% of the volume of fresh fruit and vegetables from third countries, representing around 20% of total fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in France.

The CSIF emphasises that these products, which complement French production, ensure the diversity and continuity of the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables available to consumers. In this regard, the CSIF regrets the discredit thus cast, beyond the importing profession, on a significant part of the range of fresh fruit and vegetables available to consumers.

The CSIF regrets that the vagueness of the terms of application of this text is already disrupting supply chains, and questions the extent of this measure in relation to the reality of a potential risk.

The CSIF cannot help but draw a parallel between the announcement of this measure and the general context of crisis affecting the French agricultural sector. The CSIF also notes that several French production organisations believe that this measure does not solve the very real difficulties they face.

The CSIF agrees with the position expressed by its French production counterparts in favour of harmonised production and marketing rules at European Union level, without national provisions penalising French operators.



Chambre Syndicale des Importateurs Français de fruits et légumes frais

Philippe Pons, president of the CSIF, states: *"Our members and their producer partners did not wait for the French government to produce and import fruit and vegetables that comply fully with legislation, and even exceed it, through multiple agronomic, social and environmental certifications. In a turbulent agricultural context, the announcement effect sought by this decree misses its target: not only does it in no way benefit French producers, and may even put them in difficulty on their export markets, but it also unnecessarily penalises French importers who are virtuously involved in broadening consumer choice."*

About the CSIF:

CSIF member companies represent a combined tonnage of 1.7 million tonnes, with a turnover of €1.5 billion, accounting for around 70% of fruit and vegetables from third countries sold in France. Fruit and vegetables from third countries account for 30% of fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in France (source: CTIFL).

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