WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/FRA/22

9 January 2026

(26-0240)

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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: French

## NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** FRANCE<br>**If applicable, name of local government involved:** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** *Direction générale de l'Alimentation* (Directorate-General for Food) - *Ministère de l'agriculture et de la souveraineté alimentaire* (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty) |
| **3.** | **Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable):** Foodstuffs from non-European Union countries containing residues of certain active plant protection substances the use of which is prohibited in the European Union |
| **4.** | **Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:**<br>**[X] All trading partners**<br>**[ ] Specific regions or countries:** |
| **5.** | **Title of the notified document:** *Arrêté du 5 janvier 2026 portant suspension d'importation, d'introduction et de mise sur le marché à titre gratuit ou onéreux, en France, de denrées alimentaires provenant de pays tiers à l'Union européenne contenant des résidus de certaines substances actives phytopharmaceutiques interdites d'utilisation dans l'Union européenne. NOR: AGRG2600034* (Order of 5 January 2026 suspending the importation, introduction and placing on the market in France, whether free of charge or for a consideration, of foodstuffs from non-European Union countries containing residues of certain active plant protection substances the use of which is prohibited in the European Union. NOR: AGRG2600034) **Language(s):** French. **Number of pages:** 3.<br>https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2026/SPS/FRA/26_00158_00_f.pdf |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** The notified order, adopted by the French authorities pursuant to Article 54 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, suspends the importation, introduction and placing on the market, whether free of charge or for a consideration, of foodstuffs or animal feed containing residues of the following active substances: glufosinate, mancozeb, thiophanate-methyl, carbendazim and benomyl, given the risks to human health in the event of dietary exposure to those substances.<br>This suspension concerns various fruits, vegetables, cereals, mushrooms and algae, in which residues of the substances concerned may also be present at levels that are a cause for concern. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [ ] animal health, [ ] plant protection, [ ] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [ ] protect territory from other damage from pests.** |
| **8.** | **Nature of the urgent problem(s) and reason for urgent action:** Given the risks to human health in the event of dietary exposure to the substances listed below, the placing on the market of foodstuffs or animal feed containing residues of the active substances |

listed below is suspended:

- **Mancozeb**: this substance is classified as a category 1B reproductive toxicant, and identified as meeting the criteria for endocrine disruption for humans, according to the EFSA opinion published on 16 December 2020.

According to the EFSA opinion published on 17 May 2023, the current MRLs for all dithiocarbamate substances, including mancozeb, result in exceedances of the toxicological reference values in the event of dietary exposure from plants, such as pome fruits, stone fruits, table grapes, mangoes, papaya, currants, strawberries, potatoes, sweet peppers, melons and lettuce.

- **Glufosinate**: this substance is classified as a category 1B reproductive toxicant. Its approval expired on 31 July 2018, in the absence of a renewal request. Exposure to a residue level corresponding to the current MRL for potatoes results in an exceedance of the toxicological reference values according to the current EFSA dietary exposure model (PRIMo rev. 3.1),
- **Thiophanate-methyl, carbendazim** and **benomyl**: these substances are closely linked as thiophanate-methyl and benomyl metabolize to carbendazim. Thiophanate-methyl is classified as a Category 2 reproductive toxicant and a Category 2 mutagen, and has been identified as an endocrine disruptor for humans (EFSA, 2018); while carbendazim and benomyl are classified as Category 1B reproductive toxicants and Category 1B mutagens.

Approval of benomyl expired in November 2002 pursuant to the non-inclusion Commission Decision. Approval of carbendazim expired in November 2014, in the absence of a renewal request, while approval of thiophanate-methyl was not renewed in October 2020, following the withdrawal of the approval request (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1498).

In the absence of a new proposal from the European Commission, the previous MRLs remain in force and risk, according to the EFSA reasoned opinion, published on 23 August 2021, an exceedance of the toxicological reference values for plants, such as citrus fruits, mangoes and papaya.

Moreover, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) deemed the toxicological information available to be insufficient to allow a re-evaluation of the reference values for carbendazim, and consequently that no MRL for carbendazim was safe. In November 2025, the CAC revoked all the Codex MRLs (CXLs) for the sum of carbendazim, benomyl and thiophanate-methyl, expressed as carbendazim.

**9. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:**

**[X] Codex Alimentarius Commission *(e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text)*:** Codex MRLs (CXL) for dithiocarbamates, including mancozeb (No. 105) and glufosinate (No. 175)

**[ ] World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) *(e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number)*:**

**[ ] International Plant Protection Convention *(e.g. ISPM No.)*:**

**[ ] None**

**Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?**

**[ ] Yes [X] No**

**If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:** See point 8.

**10. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:**

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| **11**. | **Date of entry into force *(dd/mm/yy)*/period of application (as applicable):** 8 January 2026 (the day following the date of the publication). The suspension of the importation, introduction and placing on the market in France, whether free of charge or for a consideration, of foodstuffs from non-European Union countries containing residues of certain active plant protection substances, the use of which is prohibited in the European Union, does not apply to foodstuffs acquired by the importer or person responsible for placing the product on the market no later than one month after the prohibitions enter into force. The various market suspension measures will end upon the application of appropriate measures by the European Commission or, failing that, one year after their entry into force.<br><br>**[ ] Trade facilitating measure** |
| **12.** | **Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and email address (if available) of other body:**<br><br>European Commission<br>Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety<br>Unit A4-Multilateral International Relations<br>Email: sps@ec.europa.eu |
| **13.** | **Text(s) available from: [X] National Notification Authority, [X] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and email address (if available) of other body:**<br><br>European Commission<br>Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety<br>Unit A4-Multilateral International Relations<br>Email: sps@ec.europa.eu |