

Statement of the IKO member countries

Given that:

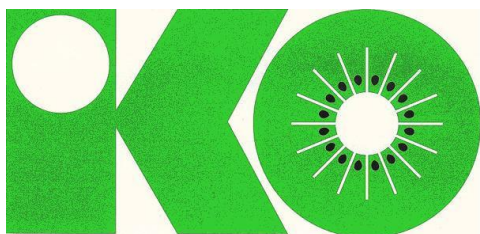
- The master standard for UNECE standards concerning fresh fruit and vegetables (2017) and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1221/2008 of 5 December 2008 require that fruit and vegetables intended for sale fresh to the consumer can only be marketed if the country of origin is indicated.
- These texts are supplemented by the UNECE standard FFV-46 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of kiwifruit (2017) and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1673/2004 of 24 September 2004 laying down the marketing standard applicable to kiwifruit, which again indicates the requirement to record the country of origin. Furthermore, this text specifies that one lot may only include kiwifruit of the same origin.
- In addition, Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers specifies that *“the indication of the country of origin or of the place of provenance of a food should be provided whenever its absence is likely to mislead consumers as to the true country of origin or place of provenance of that product. In all cases, the indication of country of origin or place of provenance should be provided in a manner which does not deceive the consumer”*.
- The purpose of these texts is to ensure consumers receive clear information.
- Despite these European provisions, misstating the origin of kiwifruit is a growing phenomenon in Europe, concerning a volume in the region of 30,000 to 50,000 t per year.
- These actions, which do not comply with regulations, fall within the deliberate falsification of traceability, as businesses falsify the origin with the aim of increasing their margin to the detriment of all parties.
- These actions deceive consumers.
- These actions are harmful to producers, regardless of the country of production.
- An investigation into illegal declaration of French origin is underway in France.

The IKO member countries ask:

- The EU members respective governments to launch immediate enquiries and implement all possible means to put an end to these actions;
- The European Union to perform an enquiry into the means to put in place on a European level to achieve this aim.

Who are we? The International Kiwifruit Organisation

In 1983, at France's initiative, the first meeting of what was to become the IKO was held in Rungis, France, bringing together representatives from New Zealand, Italy, the United States (California) and France. The active members of the IKO in 2018 are: Chile, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal and the United States of America. The IKO is a forum for exchange between member countries, in particular on the subject of standards.



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