

FOOD AND



BEVERAGE

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Food legislation covers various spheres with features that are unlike those of other areas, ranging from specific commercial concepts to the complex restrictions on nutrition and health claims.

Since the so-called 'mad cow crisis', the regulations related to the characteristics of food products, traceability (from field and farm to table), and food security have acquired such importance that the body of regulations governing the sector has become known as food law.

Certain features of these regulations are similar to those governing other special fields: chemicals, pharmaceuticals, energy, or the environment.

The free movement of foodstuffs in the internal European market makes it necessary to comply with the regulations, practically all of which are drawn up by the community authorities and, as far as possible, attempt to balance the opinion of the voters with respect for diversity.

A vitally important sector

The food and agriculture sector is of enormous importance in today's world. It is linked to a vital necessity: a sufficient, sustainable supply of wholesome, healthy food. The sector also accounts for a significant part of the GDP of our closest neighbours, particularly the Mediterranean countries.

Moreover, it is linked to rural development, territorial balance, and environmental sustainability.

The population of the world depends on the sector to satisfy its growing demand for more and more varied foods.