Sistema sanzionatorio e mercato agroalimentare
Percorsi interni e dimensione transnazionale

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ABSTRACT

Food law enforcement in a global market: why national laws are no longer enough

Agri-food markets have become increasingly global, while enforcement remains largely national. Products, operators and supply chains often cross several jurisdictions, but criminal law, administrative sanctions and regulatory powers are still mainly exercised within national borders. This makes the enforcement of agri-food law more complex and raises questions that are common to many legal systems.

The protection of the agri-food sector is no longer limited to public health. It also involves consumer trust, fair competition, the integrity of supply chains, product authenticity and traceability. As a result, many countries are reconsidering how criminal law, administrative sanctions and preventive measures should work together.

The recent Italian reform can be seen in this broader context. More than introducing new offences or increasing penalties, it seeks to modernise an outdated legislative framework, strengthen the protection of the agri-food chain and improve the coordination between criminal, administrative and preventive tools.

The presentation will focus on three questions that are relevant across different legal systems: what should agri-food law primarily protect; when and to what extent should criminal law or administrative sanctions be used; and how can different enforcement tools be combined to deal with increasingly transnational forms of misconduct?