

**Question for written answer E-001563/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission action against adulterated honey

The most recent EU coordinated action¹ findings show that 46 % of imported honey samples appear to be adulterated and non-compliant with the provisions of the Honey Directive².

The adulteration appears to be carried out by adding sugar syrups, colourings and other additives with the aim of reducing the price, as well as masking the true geographical origin of honey by falsifying traceability information.

This constitutes a practice of unfair competition that endangers the beekeeping sector, an integral part of European agriculture, which plays a key role in the sustainable development of rural areas by creating jobs and making important contributions to the ecosystem.

With regard to the revision of the Honey Directive:

1. Does the Commission intend to proceed with further tightening the labelling requirements, including through the obligation to precisely indicate the country or countries of origin of the honeys used for the final product, as well as the proportions of all ingredients that have been used for the final product?
2. How does it intend to strengthen traceability checks, with an emphasis on imported honey and updating the list of laboratory methods for detecting fraud?

Submitted: 16.5.2023

¹ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130227>.

² Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey (OJ L 10, 12.1.2002, p. 47).