

**Question for written answer E-001553/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Need to amend the Honey Directive

Paragraph 5 of the preamble to Council Directive No 2001/110/EC states that 'the particular consumer interests as regards the geographical characteristics of honey and full transparency in this regard necessitate that the country of origin where the honey has been harvested should be included in the labelling'.

Meanwhile, Article 2(4) states that, if the honey originates in more than one Member State or third country, that information may be replaced with the following: 'blend of EC and non-EC honeys'.

This provision contradicts the purpose of the legislation, stated in paragraph 5 of the preamble, as such a solution allows high-quality honey to be blended with poor-quality, fake honey of dubious origin, imported from a third country. I have six investigative reports proving use of this unfortunate practice. This means that consumers are not receiving the proper information on the country of origin and quality of the honey they buy and consume.

I have the following questions for the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality:

- 1 How does she intend to amend the Honey Directive, so that consumers know the name of the non-EU country of origin and the proportion of non-EU honey in the blend?
- 2 What other amendments to the Honey Directive can she suggest, to enable it to cope with current challenges?