

**Question for written answer E-002275/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Additional expenditure which would be incurred if the rules on the labelling of mixed honey were amended

It is evident from the information received to date from European bee-keepers' organisations, State food safety authorities and the Commission that a large-scale series of frauds, comparable to the horsemeat scandal, is going on within the EU's internal market in relation to mixed honey. Investigations are therefore being conducted as part of a coordinated EU monitoring plan. According to the information disclosed by the Commission so far, there is strong reason to believe that nearly one third (29%) of honey imported into the EU is adulterated with added sugar.

This constitutes a serious threat to the EU's 500 million consumers, as, apart from the breach of consumer protection rules, there is a significant risk to food safety and health, because the adulterated industrially-produced honey, based on common sugar syrup, may contain any other contaminant at all. Stepping up food safety investigations may reduce the number of cases of fraud, but it will not solve the problem, which may then recur at any time in the future. Only the requisite adjustment of the rules on the labelling of mixed honey can solve the problem.

1. In the Commission's view, what type of additional expenditure would be incurred by dealers and processors in indicating the country of origin of mixed honey and the proportions of the various individual honeys that it contains?
2. In the Commission's view, exactly how much additional expenditure would be incurred by dealers and processors in indicating the country of origin of mixed honey and the proportions of the various individual honeys that it contains?
3. What impact assessment or study can the Commission forward to me regarding the above points?