**Question for written answer E-002148/2019**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Pascal Arimont (PPE)**

Subject: Protecting European consumers and beekeepers against the impact of lower-quality honey from non-EU countries

Honey production in the EU is governed by stringent directives. The labelling of honey from non-EU countries, meanwhile, is often inadequate.

This is true in particular of honey from China, which, according to Commission statistics, accounts for 40% of imports into the EU. Experts suggest that Chinese honey is industrially dried, a procedure which is not consistent with the quality requirements for European honey. What is more, beekeepers’ associations and professionals claim that much of the honey imported from China may be adulterated with exogenous cane or maize sugar. One result is that this honey can be marketed in Europe at dumping prices, adding further to the price pressure on European honey producers.

What practical steps is the Commission taking in order to halt sales of this kind of ‘honey’ in the EU, to draw consumers’ attention to its lower quality and to protect European beekeepers against the impact of dumping practices?