

**Question for written answer P-000176/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
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Subject: Problems caused by industrial honey imported into the EU

I have recently come into the possession of six laboratory reports concerning mixed honeys sold in the EU's internal market published by the French 'Eurofins' laboratory. The reports show that significant quantities of imported honey of questionable quality are entering the EU. The main thrust of the laboratory's findings concerns the fact that the products examined contain added sugar, and they state that the mixed honey which was examined bore no relation to the description of ingredients which appeared on the jars.

According to the latest market information, the EU's internal market is being overrun by industrial honey at dumping prices which is rumoured to come from China. Good-quality, reliable European honey is then used merely to improve this sugar syrup, and the result is mixed honey.

This food fraud involving industrial honey is undermining the confidence of Europe's consumers and ruining Europe's honey producers, and the fraudulent industrial products will endanger the health of consumers in the long term. It is a similar problem to the well-known horsemeat scandal.

1. When does the Council intend to put the counterfeit honey scandal on the agenda of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council?
2. Does the Council agree that the Commission should immediately have food controls introduced in all Member States?
3. Does the Council agree that the Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers should be reviewed, since the indication 'blend of EU and non-EU honeys' does not protect the interests of consumers?