

EN

E-002324/2020

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.6.2020)

1. When negotiating free trade agreements, the Commission always carefully weighs the tariff concessions offered to trade partners, based on a detailed assessment of the sensitivity of the concerned products, thus including honey. It should be noted that the EU depends on imports to cover its consumption¹.

2. As explained by the Commission in replies to e.g. written questions E-003577/2019 and E-000270/2019, Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey² requires that the country or countries of origin where the honey has been harvested shall be indicated on the label. If the honey originates in more than one country, one of the terms: blend of EU/blend of non-EU/blend of EU and non-EU honeys, may be used.

The Commission finds that the provisions in place are sufficient and contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market and currently does not foresee to amend Directive 2001/110/EC. However, the Commission will have a careful look into the overall framework of provision of food information to consumers within the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy.

3. Primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the EU agri-food related legislation rests with the food business operators. Detecting and fighting food fraud is the responsibility of the Member States, and their competent authorities continue to control the sector and use either the EU Food Fraud Network³ (EU-FFN) for cross-border cooperation related to suspected frauds or the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation system⁴ (ACC NC) for cooperation related to non-compliances⁵. The Commission finds that the current framework is effective to ensure the respect of EU law. No new measures regarding controls of possible adulterated honey from inside or outside the EU are currently envisaged.

¹ In 2018, the rate of self-sufficiency was around 60%.

² Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey (OJ L 10,12.1.2002, p. 47), amended by Directive 2014/63/EU.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/ffn_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food-fraud/aas_en

⁵ In 2019, seven requests for assistance concerning suspicions of adulterated honey and 19 request for non-compliances were shared through these systems.