

**Question for written answer E-006959/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: European honey production

Beekeeping is an ecological practice that is in perfect harmony with natural habitats and ecosystems. The pollination service provided by wild pollinators is essential for European agriculture, horticulture and biodiversity. It is closely interconnected with rural areas and contributes to their development, providing income for 650 000 European beekeepers, who manage approximately 18 million hives.

The EU is the world's second largest producer of honey and its largest importer. European honey production fell last year, and an even sharper drop is expected this year due to unfavourable weather conditions that have affected Eastern Europe, such as a major drought this summer. However, producers do not expect to see an increase in prices, since honey prices in the main importing countries continue to fall.

1. National beekeeping programmes seek to improve the production and marketing of bee products. Based on close market monitoring, does the Commission consider that risk management measures are needed in this sector?
2. In order to better protect the origin of European honey products and to avoid the marketing of counterfeit honey, does the Commission consider that stricter controls are needed on imports from third countries, along with measures to deter counterfeiting?