

**Question for written answer E-001500/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marlene Mortler (PPE)

Subject: ISO standard for honey

For several successive years now, the honey harvest in many EU Member States has been average to poor. This makes the European market vulnerable to competition from importing countries. Importing countries often have either different standards or no national standards at all for the declaration and designation of what constitutes bee honey. Negotiations are currently under way at the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), chaired by the People's Republic of China, to establish an ISO standard for honey. The European Honey Directive currently applies to the internal market and to importers in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius. This Codex ensures that consumers and markets receive a safe, unadulterated and properly labelled food product.

1. Is the Commission concerned that an ISO standard for honey may give rise to two different standards for honey which would apply to imports into the EU?
2. Is the Commission aware that the international ISO standard under discussion could enter into conflict with the definitions of bee honey within the EU and national rules on honey?
3. What stance will the Commission take on the establishment of an ISO standard for honey?