

**Question for written answer E-000793/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Clara Aguilera (S&D)**

Subject:     Origin fraud in honey and the Union Customs Code

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers requires an indication of a product's country of origin where failure to indicate this could mislead the consumer. For its part, Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey provides for the indication of different blends where it does not originate from a single Member State or third country. These provisions are diluted by the application of the Union Customs Code, according to which goods whose production involves more than one country shall be deemed to originate in the country or territory where they underwent their 'last, substantial, ... justified processing'. Secondary legislation lists what is not deemed 'substantial, ... justified processing', in which blending or heating is omitted.

After decades of protesting about the marketing and sale of low-quality honeys from third countries as if they had originated in the EU, the beekeeping sector still lacks effective protection to prevent such consumer fraud and protect against price dumping and against harming the incomes of European beekeepers.

1. Has the Commission considered excluding honey, blends of honey or heated honey from the 'acquisition of origin' of the Customs Code, to put an end to fraud involving imported blends of honey labelled as 'EU origin'?

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