

**Question for written answer E-000794/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Serious crisis in the Spanish and European beekeeping market

In Spain, production of honey and other apiculture products has fallen by around 50% this year, not only because of the severe drought, but also because of plant health problems and attacks by invasive species. Despite the decrease in production, sales are very slow. A great deal of honey is still in the hands of beekeepers and their cooperatives. This is because the packaging industry and large retailers are bringing in honey from other countries, at prices well below the production costs in Spain. What little is sold is sold at prices that do not cover the costs per kilogramme, which have shot up because of oil and other input prices.

Beekeepers in Spain and the EU are therefore facing an extremely serious situation, as the rise in costs is accompanied by a lack of income and a depreciation in the value of their product.

In view of the above:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to alleviate the serious crisis in the honey market and put an end to unfair or fraudulent use of the European standard, so as to ensure that the origin of a honey is correctly indicated on its label?
2. Does it intend to provide specific aid for the beekeeping sector in order to offset the rise in energy costs?

Submitted: 8.3.2023