NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0141/2023 by F. H. (German) on the labelling of honey of mixed EU and non-EU origin

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner calls for a ban on ‘blend of EU and non-EU honeys’ as origin labelling for honey.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 2 June 2023. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 29 August 2023


Article 2(4) of the Honey Directive requires the country or countries where honey has been harvested to be indicated on the label. It also provides the possibility to replace the list of countries of origin for honey blends by one of the following, as appropriate: ‘blend of EU honeys’, ‘blend of non-EU honeys’, ‘blend of EU and non-EU honeys’.

Under the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission has been reviewing EU agricultural marketing standards, including the Honey Directive. After having completed a thorough impact assessment process\(^2\), the Commission tabled a legal proposal for the revision of the Honey Directive.

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\(^2\) Agricultural products – revision of EU marketing standards (europa.eu)

The key element of the proposal is the introduction of country of origin labelling for honey blends. It makes it compulsory to indicate all individual countries of origin (Member States and third countries), thereby improving information to consumers, preserving the functioning of the EU single market and ensuring a level playing field for actors on the honey market. At the same time, the proposal avoids excessive administrative burden placed on public authorities and operators and ensures that the information labelled is proportionate and controllable.

The Commission’s proposal is currently discussed by the co-legislators, the Council and the European Parliament, under the ordinary legislative procedure.

Conclusion

The Commission considers that the subject of the petition is addressed by the Commission proposal for the revision of Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001. The proposal offers the exact identification of the countries of origin for honey blends, thereby satisfying consumer demand for precise and unambiguous information on the origin of honey blends. The final EU legal provisions on country of origin labelling for honey blends will be those agreed by the co-legislators under the ordinary legislative procedure.