



# Honey origin labelling

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*Webinar “Honey labelling: Time to bee transparent– 10 November 2021*

# In the Farm to Fork action plan

- Action 21: Proposal to require **origin indication for certain products** scheduled for Q4 of 2022
- Part of the section “Promote sustainable food consumption, facilitating the shift towards healthy, **sustainable diets**”
- Legal basis: Council Directive 2001/110/EC the “honey Directive”
- Integrated in the **public consultation on marketing standards**: out of some 300 responses, only 45 concerned honey
- **Action 18**: reviewing marketing standards for uptake and supply of sustainable products

# EP view

- European Parliament **resolution of 20 October 2021 on a farm to fork strategy** for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system:
- (97) ... calls on the Commission to propose **legislative changes for honey labelling rules** that will result in better consumer information and to support the EU beekeeping sector by reinforcing import inspections in order to prevent imports of adulterated honey while stressing that all country-of-origin labelling needs to be effectively enforced to combat food fraud

# Council view

- German presidency conclusions (AGRIFISH of 15/16 December 2020): (25) REFERS to Member States' calls at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to revise the Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey with the aim to **specify the countries of origin of the honey used in honey blends**, and CALLS UPON the Commission to start work on a legislative proposal to amend the Directive accordingly
- At the AGRIFISH Council of 11-12 October 2021, many Ministers expressed support for the Slovenian presidency's proposal to **revise the rules on labelling honey blends** so as to indicate the countries of origin of the honey used in the blends

# Current legislation

- The **country of origin must be labelled** when fully obtained in one single MS
- If mixed origins, label can be:



- “blend of EU honeys”
- “blend of non-EU honeys”
- “blend of EU and non-EU honeys”

- See Art. 2(4) of the honey directive



- National rules (**EL, IT, ES, FR, PT, RO**) can require that all honey packed in a specific territory is labelled with the exact country of origin, but may not block the import of honey from other EU MS

# State of play

- Council Directive 2001/110/EC provides for EU producers to label the origin of their honey and for **EU consumers to make an informed choice**.
- All honey placed on the EU market, including imported honey, must meet the **quality standards** laid down in Directive 2001/110/EC, as well as legislation concerning food safety and food information to consumers.
- **MS to perform controls and take appropriate actions** in case of suspected fraud (using the EU Food Fraud Network (EU-FFN) for cross-border cooperation).

# Guiding principles looking ahead

- Preserve the single market
- Not confuse origin labelling and consumers' choice for local products
- Public consultation and impact assessment

## Timetable

- Open public consultation finished (31 August)
- Impact assessment under preparation
- Proposals to be presented in Q2 or Q3 of 2022

# Facts and figures

- **EU = 2<sup>nd</sup> world producer** (280 000 t), after China (500 000 t), followed by Turkey, Canada, Argentina, Iran, US, Ukraine
- Main EU producers: **ES, RO, PL, IT, FR, EL, HU** (South and East)
- EU only **60% self-sufficient**
- Imports mainly from **Ukraine (31%) and China (22%)**, followed by Argentina (13%), Mexico (10%), Uruguay, Cuba, Brazil
- Total number of **beehives**: 18,9 million
- Total number of **beekeepers**: 615 000
- Small sector, important for **pollination**



# Thank you



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