



REPUBLIC OF
SLOVENIA



HUMAN
RIGHTS
OMBUDSMAN

Human Rights Ombudsman
Dunajska cesta 56
1000 Ljubljana

Dear Advocates of Bees,

I am writing to express my full support for your crucial efforts to combat the widespread issue of counterfeit food, particularly the alarming rise of fake honey in the European market. In my capacity as the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as a concerned individual, I recognise the significant threat that counterfeit bee products pose to public health, consumer rights, and the future of the beekeeping industry itself.

Genuine bee products are a remarkable gift of nature, valued for their health benefits and long-standing role in traditional medicine. It is a matter of grave concern that almost a staggering half of the honey on the market is of illicit origin, placing both consumers and the livelihoods of beekeepers across Europe at significant risk. This situation is untenable and your efforts to highlight the issue and demand action are to be commended.

The practice of beekeeping is not merely the production of honey; it is a vital component of maintaining the health of our ecosystems, utmost necessary conservation of biodiversity and the sustainability of agriculture through pollination. Should the beekeeping industry continue to suffer as a result of the influx of counterfeit products, the consequences for food production and the environment will be significant and detrimental. It is imperative that action is taken to prevent this from occurring.

I am in full agreement with your proposal for more rigorous regulations and enforcement to halt the influx of illicit honey and other counterfeit food products. Your work is of vital importance not only for the protection of consumers but also for the preservation of the integrity of Europe's food system and the invaluable service that bees provide.

In my capacity as the Human Rights Ombudsman, I am committed to providing whatever assistance I can to advance your cause. I am committed to supporting your efforts to safeguard both our health and the future of beekeeping in Europe, whether through advocacy, raising awareness, or working alongside relevant authorities. Moreover, we as the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia are also eager to collaborate and engage in a meeting where we can explore other vital topics from this field.

By working together, we can guarantee that only authentic, natural bee products are available on the market, thereby ensuring the continued prosperity of the beekeeping industry for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Svetina

Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia