



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Christophe Hansen
Commissioner for agriculture and food

Brussels, 19. 09. 2025

Dear Mr Noč,

Thank you for your letters of 31 July and 5 August concerning EU honey standards and imports, including the European Beekeeping Association position paper, addressed also to Commissioner Roswall. We have read them with interest, and I am replying also on her behalf.

I am deeply aware of the importance of beekeeping for agriculture, through its contribution to the environment and pollination. While the EU is the second producer of honey in the world, it is a net importer, with a self-sufficiency rate of about 60%.

All honey marketed in the EU – with no exception - must comply with the quality and labelling rules laid down in the Honey Directive ⁽¹⁾. Misleading claims such as those you mention are prohibited and subject to control and sanctions by Member States' authorities.

As you know, the Directive underwent a comprehensive review in 2024, and the current text reflects the outcome of negotiations between the co-legislators. Member States are now transposing it into national legislation.

Many of the points raised in your letter and in the position paper are being discussed by the Honey Platform - of which you are a member – that is specifically tasked to provide recommendations on these important subjects.

I am confident that many of them will be addressed and solved, within the boundaries of current scientific and technical knowledge, the empowerment to the Commission granted by the co-legislators and the need to keep the administrative and economic burden for operators and Member States at a minimum.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the Honey Platform's very useful work to provide the Commission with advice, data and information which will

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey. OJ L 10, 12.1.2002, pp. 47–52
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/110/oj>

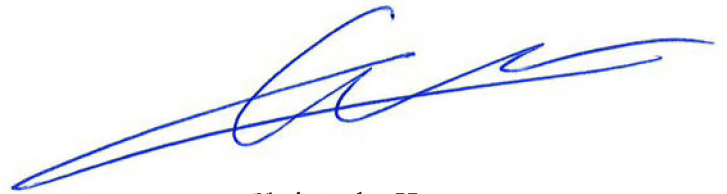
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contribute to a collective approach for the adoption of future delegated and implemented acts foreseen in the revised Directive.

Concerning honey trade with Ukraine, the revised agreement strikes a balance between supporting Ukraine's economy and taking account of sensitivities of certain EU agricultural sectors, including beekeeping.

A safeguard clause has been introduced, allowing the EU to activate a mechanism enabling the adoption of appropriate measures in situations where imports may cause adverse effects on the internal market. The assessment of a possible disturbance can be done at the level of one or more Member States, the case arising.

Yours sincerely,



Christophe Hansen