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European Beekeeping Association,
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**Concern about Ukrainian honey imports
and the future of European beekeeping**

Tuesday, 14th of November 2025

Dear Commissioner Hansen,
Dear Ministers,

European professional beekeepers express deep concern regarding the amended DCFTA Regulation (EU 2025/2199), which foresees a **significant increase in Ukrainian honey import quotas** from October 2025 onward.

For many years, everyone in the sector has been aware that **the origin of much of Ukraine's honey is highly questionable**. This has been repeatedly confirmed by laboratories, professional associations, and independent investigators across Europe.

The QSI Bremen laboratory presentation **"Is my honey authentic?"** (SPMF Meeting, Bordeaux, April 2024) clearly demonstrates that **current honey authenticity testing methods are unreliable – up to 100% syrup** may remain undetected, and such samples are still classified as "authentic honey."

https://www.spmf.fr/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Is_my_honey_authentic_QSI_Presentation_SPMF_Meeting_Bdx.pdf

In addition, **FAO-based data and ZDF investigative reports** highlight a highly inconsistent trade pattern: **Ukraine has for years exported nearly as much honey as it produces, while imports are minimal and domestic consumption has remained unchanged.**

This means that Ukraine cannot realistically increase its exports — yet ever larger volumes of "Ukrainian" honey are being sold within the EU.

This strongly suggests that the declared origin and composition of this honey are unreliable, and that "laundered" or relabelled fake honey is entering the market.

It is therefore widely acknowledged that:

- the authenticity of much imported honey cannot be verified;
- retailers and consumers are being misled; and
- honest European beekeepers are being forced out of the market, unable to compete with systematic fraud.

European beekeepers fully support **fair competition and free trade**,
but it is impossible to compete with **syrup-based honey sold as genuine honey**.

We therefore respectfully ask for clear answers to the following questions:

1. How will the Commission and Member States ensure that increased Ukrainian honey imports will not further harm the EU market and genuine producers?
2. Are independent control measures applied before products enter the EU market, and what specific methods are being used?
3. Is the European Commission prepared to urgently review the current framework for honey authenticity testing, which has proven clearly inadequate?
4. How and when does the European Union intend to compensate beekeepers for the economic damage caused by its policies and decisions?

Furthermore, beekeepers are increasingly asking whether **the EU's inaction and extremely slow response are no longer mere negligence but rather deliberate behaviour that harms European beekeepers and enables fraud to flourish**.

Honest producers cannot survive in a market where political decisions and weak controls reward deception instead of integrity.

We call upon the European Commission and Member States to act immediately to:

- protect the integrity of the EU honey market,
- ensure fair competition, and
- safeguard the livelihoods of Europe's professional beekeepers as well as consumers' trust in authentic honey.

Respectfully,

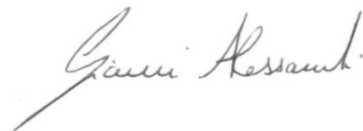
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