



Brdo pri Lukovici, 16. January 2026

Subject: Now is the time to save beekeeping! The position of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA) regarding the ECJ referral vote and the Motion for Resolution of the EU–Mercosur Agreement

Dear President of the European Parliament, Ms Roberta Metsola,

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

We are yet again addressing you at this crucial moment to emphasize the negative impacts the EU–Mercosur Agreement will have for all the farming sectors, INCLUDING the beekeeping sector.

According to the Mercosur agreement, up to 45,000 tons of honey will be able to enter the EU each year without customs duties, which is almost 10% of the total annual honey consumption in the EU. As the EU already imports approximately 160,000 tons of honey annually from countries outside the EU, the pressure on the market will be even greater.

Beekeepers in Europe produce honey according to the highest hygiene standards with the best beekeeping practices. Therefore, production costs are higher, consequently the quality of bee products is also higher.

Competing with imports that come from environments with lower standards and lower costs, without customs duties is unfair competition and will prove to be extremely damaging, if not detrimental, to the European beekeeping.

According to the EU Commission, almost 50% of honey on the European market is already counterfeit.

The European Beekeeping Association would like to remind us all that every third spoonful of food depends on bee pollination. Honey can be imported, but unfortunately pollination cannot. We are again asking the European politics to understand the crucial role of bees and beekeepers, both for the farming sector and biodiversity (and this planet!). We would also like to remind all the members of the parliament that you are in this position to defend the consumers, who will be heavily hit by potentially unhealthy, if not fake, bee products.

If for some reason, and it should not, the EU–Mercosur Agreement gets finally approved, the European beekeepers demand strict control of honey traceability and state-of-the-art analysis for residues in honey and control of honey authenticity. This control must be carried out before the honey reaches Europe.



European
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Association

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Several institutional reactions have also resulted from the unique manner in which this specific deal has been negotiated, marketed, and pushed through the approval process. Resorting to the ECJ referral further proves that the Members of European Parliament have lost trust in the way in which the ratification process has been conducted.

The European Beekeeping Association firmly opposes the EU–Mercosur Agreement and calls on Members of the European Parliament to support the ECJ referral action, preventing the agreement to be approved in its current form.

We remain at your disposal for scientific consultation and constructive dialogue.

Respectfully,

President Boštjan Noc – President of European Beekeeping Association

Dr. Nik Lupše –Head of EBA Scientific Committees, on behalf of the Scientific Committee for Safety and Quality of Bee Products

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