Issue 21 · March 2026

# NO BEES LIFE

## EBA MAGAZINE

# 32 COUNTRIES

## FROM WHICH EBA HAS MEMBERS

## (61 beekeeping organizations)

In order of confirmation of the Statute of EBA

## 420.179 beekeepers

Serbia
Slovenia
North Macedonia
Bulgaria
Greece
Romania
Malta
Germany
Hungary
Ukraine
Montenegro
Lithuania
Bosnia and Hercegovina
Sweden
Croatia
Czech Republic
Poland
United Kingdom
Netherlands
Italy
Ireland
Belgium
Cyprus
Türkiye
Switzerland
Prishtina*
Portugal
Spain
Slovakia
Austria
Albania
Iceland
Estonia

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# SILVER SPONSOR

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# IN TWO YEARS FROM NOTHING TO MORE THAN 420,000 BEEKEEPERS IN THE EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

On February 10, 2024, we visionaries gathered in Belgrade and dared to say out loud – European beekeepers need their own strong, unified voice. A voice that will protect bees, beekeepers and consumers. That day, the European Beekeeping Federation was born.

We dreamed of connected beekeepers from all over Europe – without borders, without divisions, regardless of EU membership. We believed that beekeeping transcends politics and that our work would be based on common values, not on national interests. Unfortunately, we were very wrong at the beginning. But it was these trials that strengthened us. Persistence, sincerity and positive energy lead us forward. Every log under our feet became just a new incentive for even more determined work, for an even louder and braver fight for the existence of European beekeeping. Perhaps many still do not understand who should fight for bees and beekeeping … we clearly know and are aware that NO ONE ELSE BUT US BEEKEEPERS!

We started completely without money, but with a lot of heart. We consciously waived membership fees because we wanted to clearly communicate: no one works for money, we all work for bees and for beekeepers – for the future. We finance material costs with sponsorships and donations, for which we are grateful to all supporters.

On the 2nd birthday of EBA, we can proudly say: we succeeded. Today, more than 420,000 beekeepers from 32 countries are united in one family, who believe that only united can we succeed! We have not yet united everyone, but we believe that this day is still waiting for us.

The most important thing is that the voice of European beekeepers is heard loud and clear today. And we believe that the time is coming when we will also be truly heard. You can read where our voice has already been heard at: https://ebaeurope.eu/ and https://www.facebook.com/ebaeurope/.

Dear beekeepers, EBA members – raise a glass of honey drink and toast with us.

To two years of courage, perseverance and networking!

For bees!

For beekeepers!

For consumers!

For a better common future!

**Boštjan Noč**
President of the EBA

# EU COMMISION BYPASSED THE EU COURT OF JUSTICE REFERRAL

The European Commission's push for the provisional application of the EU-Mercosur agreement has triggered a sharp backlash. The European Beekeeping Association (EBA) and organizations like Copa and Cogeca view this as a dismissal of long-standing concerns regarding the economic survival of local producers. By bypassing the EU Court of Justice referral vote, the Commission is accused of undermining the trust necessary to maintain the European agricultural model.

A central grievance is the unfair competition created by stark asymmetries in production standards. European beekeepers and farmers operate under strict environmental, labor, and animal welfare regulations not mirrored by Mercosur counterparts. This creates a massive disadvantage for sensitive sectors, including beekeeping. The EBA is particularly vocal about the threat of low-cost honey or counterfeit honey imports that bypass EU quality standards, effectively undercutting local beekeepers who face much higher compliance costs.

Ultimately, the sector warns that prioritizing trade over regulatory reciprocity will leave a lasting political scar. Without ironclad guarantees that imports adhere to the same rigorous criteria as domestic products, the agreement risks further alienating not only rural communities but also the european consumer, whilst destabilizing the livelihoods of those essential to regional biodiversity and food security.

**Boštjan Noč**
President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the European Beekeeping Association

**Dr. Nik Lupše**
Food Safety Advisor at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and Head of the Scientific Committees (European Beekeeping Association)

# HOW WILL MERCOSUR HONEY AFFECT THE EUROPEAN HONEY MARKET?

The proposed trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur countries — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — will allow honey from these nations to enter the EU with reduced tariffs and fewer border controls.

On paper, the objective appears simple: increase trade flows, expand market opportunities for South American producers, and provide European consumers with lower-priced honey.

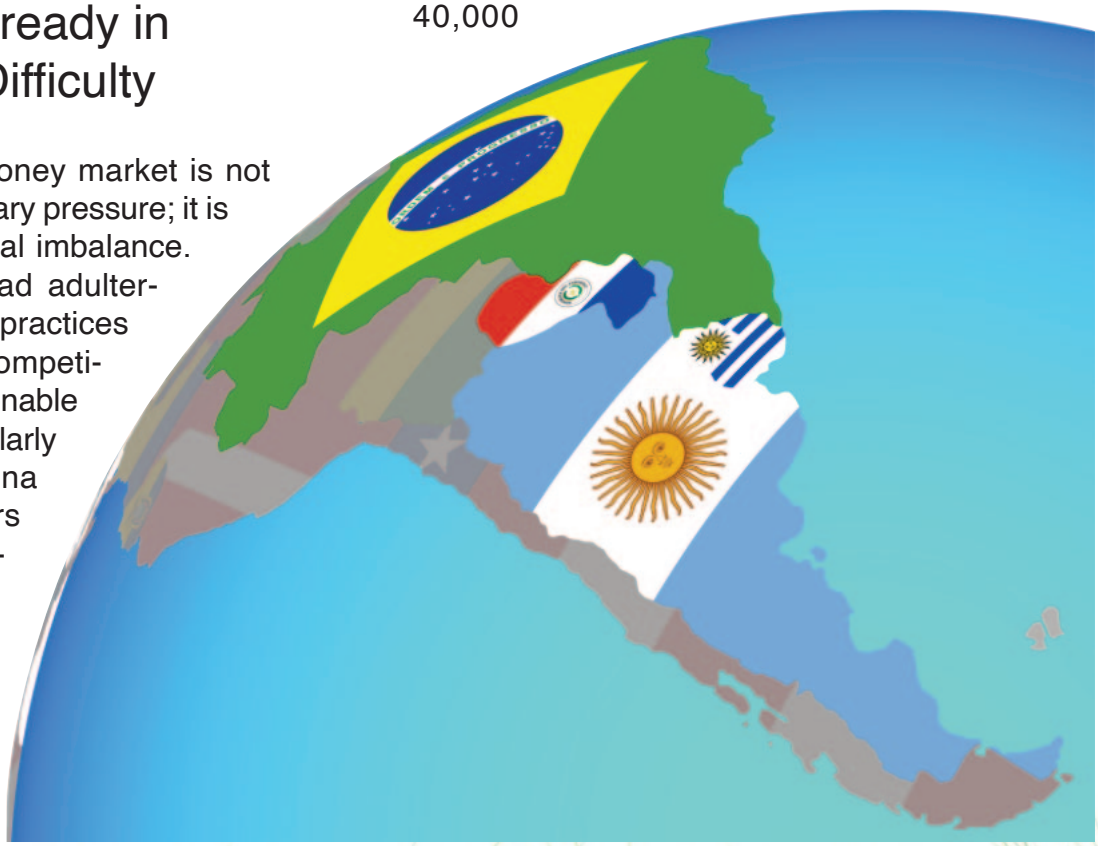
In practice, however, the consequences for European beekeeping could be profound.

## A Market Already in Structural Difficulty

The European honey market is not merely facing temporary pressure; it is experiencing structural imbalance. For years, widespread adulteration and fraudulent practices have distorted fair competition. Honey of questionable authenticity — particularly originating from China — frequently enters the EU via intermediary countries and is marketed at prices significantly below European production costs.

Such pricing practices undermine the viability of European beekeepers and responsible honey packers who insist on marketing authentic, traceable products. At the same time, consumers remain vulnerable to misleading origin labeling and uneven enforcement of EU rules. The cumulative effect is clear: unfair competition, speculative trading practices, price suppression, erosion of market transparency, and the gradual displacement of genuine European honey from supermarket shelves.

Against this already fragile backdrop, the EU is considering the introduction of an additional 40,000



tons of duty-free honey from Mercosur countries.

In response to concerns raised by the European Beekeeping Association, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Christian Hansen, stated that Mercosur honey could help meet EU demand while contributing to diversification of imports. He also referred to the safeguard mechanism embedded in the EU-Mercosur framework as a protective instrument in case of serious harm to EU producers.

It is indeed correct that the EU is approximately 63% self-sufficient in honey production. However, this figure requires careful interpretation. According to Eurostat data for 2024, the EU produced 282,000 tons of honey, imported 175,000 tons, consumed 435,000 tons, and exported 25,435 tons. These figures illustrate that the EU already imports substantial volumes, including honey that is subsequently re-exported. The market is therefore not suffering from physical shortages, but rather from price pressure driven by large quantities of low-priced imports, primarily from China, Ukraine, and Argentina, frequently entering at prices below €2/kg. Additional duty-free volumes from Mercosur are likely to intensify these distortions rather than resolve structural weaknesses.

With regard to diversification, it is difficult to see how Mercosur honey would substantially broaden the EU product portfolio. The principal monofloral varieties produced in Mercosur countries, clover, eucalyptus, rapeseed, and sunflower, are already widely available within the Union. Moreover, concerns persist regarding blended products incorporating honey from third countries, a common practice in global trade. It is notable that Argentina exports volumes that, in certain years, exceed its declared domestic production, raising legitimate questions about traceability and origin transparency.

The safeguard mechanism referenced by the Commissioner is the bilateral clause embedded in the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement, which allows the EU to withdraw or suspend preferential tariffs where imports increase by more than 5% or where significant price devaluations threaten serious injury to EU producers. While such a clause exists, safeguard measures are, by nature, reactive and temporary. They require a formal demonstration of serious harm and are typically activated only after damage has already occurred. For a sector already under prolonged strain, reliance on post-factum corrective measures may not provide sufficient reassurance.


A further concern relates to enforcement practice. There remains uncertainty as to whether potential cases of adulteration or false origin declaration in imported Mercosur honey would be addressed primarily as food fraud under customs control, rather than through trade defence instruments such as anti-dumping measures. Although the legal basis for anti-dumping action under Regulations 2018/825 and 2020/1173 could arguably be considered, the EU has thus far tended to frame very low-priced honey imports mainly as a fraud issue rather than as dumping. This distinction has significant implications for market protection.

This concern is reinforced by findings from the 2023 “Report from the Hive,” indicating that in 2021–2022, 63% of honey exported from Bra-

zil and 54% from Argentina to the EU were found non-compliant with EU legislative requirements. Such figures underscore the importance of rigorous controls, particularly when considering further tariff liberalization.

In light of these factors, the key issue is not simply supply diversification or numerical self-sufficiency. It is whether additional duty-free imports, introduced into an already price-distorted and enforcement-challenged market, risk further weakening a strategically important agricultural sector. A precautionary and evidence-based approach would therefore be advisable to ensure that trade policy decisions do not inadvertently exacerbate existing structural imbalances.

## Production Costs: Mercosur vs Europe

Table 1 shows the cost of honey production from Mercosur countries which is divided to a) direct/variable costs which includes sugar / supplemental feeding, medications and treatments, queen replacement, fuel and transport, temporary labor, packaging and extraction costs and b) fixed & general costs that concerns unpaid family labor wages, depreciation for hives, frames, extractors, trucks, maintenance of equipment, Insurance and administration.

*Table 1. Cost of production and honey prices in Mercosur and European Countries*

| Countries | Cost of production(€/Kg) | | Supermarket & retail Prices |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Direct /variable | Total cost | |
| Argentina | 1.20–1.50 | 1.80–2.20 | 8-12 |
| Brazil | 1.30–1.70 | 2.00–2.60 | 8–20 |
| Uruguay | 1.40–1.70 | 2.00–2.40 | 14-30 |
| Paraguay | 1.10–1.40 | 1.70–2.10 | 9–12 |
| Europe | 3.90-5.00 | 8.00-12.00 | 3.5 -18 |

As table 1 indicates, the total cost of honey production in Mercosur countries is estimated to be four to five times lower than the European average. This is due mainly to two reasons:

a) In Mercosur countries, beekeeping is essentially stationary. Colonies remain in the same location year-round. In Europe migratory beekeeping is essential. Beekeepers must move colonies from bloom to bloom to secure adequate yields. This dramatically increases fuel costs, labor costs, equipment depreciation and maintenance expenses

b) Mercosur production is often based on vast monocultures or extensive blooming Periods of soybean, clover, sunflower, eucalyptus, citrus and native flora. Long flowering periods lead to high yields per hive. Higher productivity reduces feeding needs and lowers winter colony losses compared to many European regions.

Another striking difference between Mercosur and Europe is the large gap between production cost and retail prices of honey in Mercosur supermarkets.

As shown in Table 1, the retail prices of honey in supermarkets across Mercosur countries are considerably higher than production costs. In contrast, in European countries, producers are often forced to dump their production at prices below their production costs. The reasons for this difference are:

a) **Large producers sell their honey in bulk to wholesalers**. Retailers process the bottling, marketing, and distribution, and set shelf prices. Essentially, the price is based on retailers' profits, not on production costs.

b) **Lower price pressure from imports**. Mercosur countries do not face competitive pricing from imported honey, and therefore retailers and distributors enjoy high profit margins, especially for branded, packaged honey.

c) **Export-oriented production**. Mercosur countries are export oriented. Large producers focus on export contracts and sell bulk or semi-packaged honey to wholesalers. Retailers then take over branding, bottling, and marketing, and, of course, determine shelf prices based on their own interests rather than production costs.

The high retail prices in Mercosur countries compared to the cost of production give Mercosur producers and traders an advantage to negotiate and promote more honey exports at low prices

## Types of Honey Produced

**Argentina**: Primarily clover, eucalyptus and sunflower honey. It is one of the world's leading honey exporters.

**Brazil**: Known for eucalyptus honey, but also for premium monofloral honeys such as Aroeira (Schinus terebinthifolius) and Assa-peixe (Vernonia polysphaera), which can command very high retail prices domestically.

**Uruguay & Paraguay**: Mainly clover, rapeseed and eucalyptus honey, much of it marketed as organic.

## Why would Mercosur countries export cheap honey to Europe?

Mercosur countries produce honey at low production cost and enjoy particularly high retail prices in their domestic supermarkets.

Why would they export honey to Europe at low prices—competitive with Chinese honey—that would be below their own production cost?

The answer to this question reveals the scale of the fraud accompanying the agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur countries.

The honey sold in domestic Mercosur retail markets is not the same product as the honey exported in bulk to the EU. The domestic supermarket sells branded, often filtered or creamed honey, in small jars, subject to national quality and marketing standards. A niche product for middle- and upper-income consumers.

Exporting honey to the EU is bulk honey in drums, often blended and is mainly highly filtered, with significant pollen removal, bakery-grade honey.

Table 2 presents the annual production and exports of Mercosur countries. Argentina, the main exporting country, exports more honey annually than it produces. Overall, of the 153,000 tons of honey produced in Mercosur countries, 130,000 tons are exported, representing 85% of total production.

The exported honey bears no relation in quality to the honey produced for domestic consumption, which is sold in local markets.

EU packers import this honey unchecked across EU borders and sell it as authentic in the European market. According to a coordinated EU research action "From the Hive", 63% of honey from Brazil and 54% from Argentina failed to meet European honey quality standards in 2021-2022.

*Table 2. Annual honey production and exports of Mercosur countries*

| Countries | Production | Export |
|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 75,000 | 79,000 |
| Brazil | 65,000 | 40,000 |
| Uruguay | 13,000 | 11,000 |
| Total | 153,000 | 130,000 |

## Coincidence or premeditated agreement?

Under the original Directive 2001/110/EC, "filtered honey" was legally defined as honey from which foreign inorganic or organic matter — including significant amounts of pollen — had been removed.

This category played a central role in fraud because the removal of pollen made origin verification difficult and it facilitated blending and "national relabeling" practices.

In 2024, under the amended Directive (EU) 2024/1438, the "filtered honey" category was officially removed — but its definition was effectively transferred to "baker's honey."

Baker's honey, according to the new directive, may contain such low pollen levels that origin labeling becomes practically impossible and is not mandate. This regulatory shift coincides

strikingly with the Mercosur agreement, especially considering that a significant share of exported Argentine honey is highly filtered.

Without this reclassification, substantial volumes might have faced rejection at EU borders.

## What if Mercosur countries export authentic honey at low prices?

There are two possible scenarios.

**Scenario 1, low-priced honey imports**. The authentic honey production in Mercosur countries is not cheap enough to compete with Chinese honey. So, Mercosur countries cannot produce authentic honey at prices comparable to Chinese honey, even if tariffs are reduced.

Therefore, the most likely explanation is fraud. Chinese honey (or honey mixed with syrups) could be shipped to Europe via Mercosur countries and declared as local production, using modified or misleading certificates of origin issued through systems such as TRACES NT and CHEC. This triangular honey trade, often involving Free Trade Zones, is already common and is a major source of honey fraud.

**Scenario 2, high-quality honey exports. In** this second scenario, Mercosur countries export high-quality, monofloral honey at higher prices.

In this case, the impact on the European market would be limited. European countries already produce the same honey varieties, and European consumers have strong trust in domestic honey. This consumer preference is difficult to change, so competition would be minimal.

## How Mercosur Honey Will Affect the Honey Market in Europe

The concerns stem from the fact that a large additional quantity of honey will be imported into an already burdened European market. This honey will enter with reduced tariffs and border controls, and is considered to be of questionable quality, and will cause further unfair competition and market distortion.

**Additional quantity of honey**: In practice, there is no restriction in Europe preventing traders from importing as much honey as they wish, provided they pay the required duties and the product meets EU quality standards. Traders can import as much honey as they want, whenever they want.

**Reduced tariffs**: The prices of imported honey range from €0.60 to €2.50 per kilo. These prices are so low that tariffs do not significantly affect the trade of imported honey. In supermarkets, imported honey can already reach prices below €3 per kilo. At the same time, the EU has already concluded trade agreements allowing duty-free imports of honey from Ukraine. Ukraine can export up to 18,500 tons tariff-free, and discussions are already underway to significantly increase this amount. The agreement with the Mercosur countries concerns the import of 40,000 tons of duty-free honey.

Adding further duty-free imports into this framework does not strengthen control, it increases exposure.

**Reduced border controls**: Europe's borders are already open to all kinds of imported honey. Laboratory testing is optional, and only 1–4% of imported shipments are checked. If tested and found not to comply with the EU directive's quality criteria, the honey is labeled as "suspicious" and allowed to pass freely across borders and be sold as normal on the European market. According to an EU report, 46% of imported honey, corresponding to 80,000 tons that did not meet quality criteria, passed freely across the borders and was marketed as usual in 2021–2022.

The control of product traceability documents (TRACE NT, CHED) is formal mainly, as these certificates can easily be altered in honey-processing countries and indicate the country of export rather than the country of production. Furthermore, after customs clearance, documentation often loses enforceable traceability value

**Questionable quality**: Honey already imported from third countries is of dubious quality. Moreover, the Mercosur countries will send to Europe filtered and blended downgraded honey imported from China. They cannot export anything worse than the worst honey that is already being imported into Europe.

According to EU-coordinated investigations (2021–2022), nearly half of the sampled imported honey failed to meet EU authenticity criteria, yet large volumes still entered the market.

**Unfair competition and market distortion**: Already, low-priced imported honey drives down market prices, making it impossible for beekeepers to cover production costs and for honest companies selling local honey to survive. This causes unfair competition, profiteering, consumer deception, and market distortion. This problem already exists and it's hard to imagine how the European honey market could be in a worse state than it is now.

## Final thoughts

The European honey market is already scraping the bottom of the barrel. Adulterated honey enters the market at extremely low prices, crosses borders with minimal checks, and benefits from the absence of fully validated enforcement methods. Traders can import unlimited volumes, distribute them freely, and face virtually no consequences.

Rather than addressing these systemic failures, Europe has introduced yet another powerful competitor, the Mercosur countries, to collaborate or compete with China for market dominance, while completely ignoring European producers.

The outcome for European beekeepers will be devastating. Existing unfair competition, market distortion, and consumer deception will intensify to an unbearable level.

Low-priced imported honey will push market prices even lower, making it impossible for genuine beekeepers to cover production costs and for honest local honey sellers to survive. Ultimately, consumers will turn away from honey altogether, and quality honey will disappear from European shelves.

In practice, a form of "Mercosur" has always existed in the honey market. Unfortunately, the situation cannot improve—it can only deepen the crisis, already at its worst.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EBA - European Beekeeping Association


BUY LOCAL HONEY

European Beekeeping Association

# CZECH BEEKEEPING DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY MÁJA

Many thanks to Dr. Vaclav Švamberk and Spolek pro rozvoj včelařství MÁJA (Czech Beekeeping Development Society MÁJA) for standing alongside EBA, the european beekeeping and the consumer. Press release, which has been published through the service of the Czech News Agency (ČTK) PROTEXT and disseminated to numerous politicians, media outlets, journalists and subscribers of different mailing lists is now available here: https://www.majabee.cz/prave-ted. Every voice counts!

MÁJA R
CZECH BEEKEEPING DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

**Dear Nik Lupse,**

**Thank you very much for your efforts to protect the critical economic conditions for beekeeping in the EU. We strongly support this initiative in the Czech Republic. The information was published yesterday on the website of our association, www.majabee.cz , and this month, among other things, we will discuss this issue with the relevant department and with the Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture and at the Commodity Council of the Agrarian Chamber with Mr. Stanislav Jaš, President of the Copa-Cogeca Working Group for Honey. Information on these issues were also be published today (February 2th 2026) on the Czech websites:**

**This press release has been published through the service of the Czech News Agency (ČTK) PROTEXT**

**The text was distributed to all users of the ČTK news service, which include MEDIA (press, TV, radio, internet publishers), ECONOMIC SPHERE (banks, insurance companies, investment companies, manufacturing enterprises, and other companies), and STATE ADMINISTRATION (ministries, government office, members of parliament, senators, local government institutions).**

**This report was also sent out via the Protext email service, is part of the ČTK applications for smartphones, and is publicly available on the websites here:**

- protext.cz
- barrandov.tv
- buzzstore.cz
- ceskenoviny.cz
- cesko247.cz
- ekonews.cz
- finmag.cz
- hrot24.cz
- i60.cz
- i-lifestyle.cz
- media24.cz
- mediatoday.cz
- newsradar.cz
- svethospodarstvi.cz
- wn24.cz
- zpravyted.cz

The press release was received by the following subscribers:

- approx. 20 largest media outlets via backed-up secure SFTP transfer
- approx. 900 journalists, company representatives, and state institutions via the ČTK Infobank on the internet
- subscribers of the Protext email service (up to 6000 addresses), primarily companies and to a lesser extent journalists
- users of ČTK mobile applications
- other readers on the internet thanks to news aggregators and portals that take over our press releases (TZ) according to content
- subscribers of NEWTON Media, Mediaboard, and TOXIN monitoring

**Below is the text of the information as it is presented (in CZ):**

**The European Beekeeping Association (EBA), in a currently prepared letter to the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen (Luxembourg), expresses deep concern about the EU-Mercosur trade agreement and other negotiations (e.g.,**

**with India) that will lead to a significant increase in honey imports into the EU, and draws attention to inadequate mechanisms for monitoring and verifying the authenticity and quality of imported honey. The EBA demands the immediate establishment of an EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for honey, the acceleration of the work of the Honey Platform, and the introduction of a targeted exception in border control legislation to ensure systematic physical checks of products at high risk of fraud, regardless of their public health risk classification, in order to prevent fraud, protect the economic viability of European beekeepers providing essential pollination services, and ensure consumer protection against adulterated honey.**

**What are the reasons for expressing this concern in the prepared letter to the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food?**

Europe is not self-sufficient in honey production (it covers only about 60% of consumption), and the rest must be imported. The main players in EU honey imports in recent years have been China and Ukraine in the Czech Republic, almost exclusively the latter Approximately the same amount more than 60,000 tonnes of honey is imported annually into the EU from both China and Ukraine. China has long been the largest exporter of honey, keeping 9.5 million bee colonies. The massive increase in imports from Ukraine occurred after lower duty-free quotas for honey imports were set several years before the war in Ukraine. This import further massively increased with the complete liberalisation of imports due to duty-free trade because of the war Honey that was previously exported mainly to the USA began to head to the EU. It is worrying that this export continued to grow in recent years and has already exceeded the previously stated maximum statistical production values for the entire country of 50,000 – 60,000 tonnes, which is difficult to explain. Therefore, it was necessary to return to mild regulation with a still very high duty-free quota set. In Ukraine, which is still a European beekeeping superpower 2,200,000 bee colonies are kept after a decline of about 0.5 million colonies due to the war. Despite this, total exports in recent years have still increased to unprecedented record values in the last 2 years. For comparison, Poland, with intensive agriculture and beekeeping, where 2,000,000 bee colonies are kept (about 10% fewer than Ukraine), has a honey production of up to 25,000 tonnes even in good years, and the Czech Republic, with today's 600,000 bee colonies, produces up to 8,000 tonnes of honey.

Because the EU is evidently completely failing to control imported honey from Eastern directions, as evidenced by a number of additional scandalous findings of sophisticated large-scale adulteration from samples in the retail network, further duty-free imports (which the USA never agreed to) from Mercosur countries pose the risk of "the final nail in the coffin of European beekeeping." The Mercosur group includes 3 very significant players in the

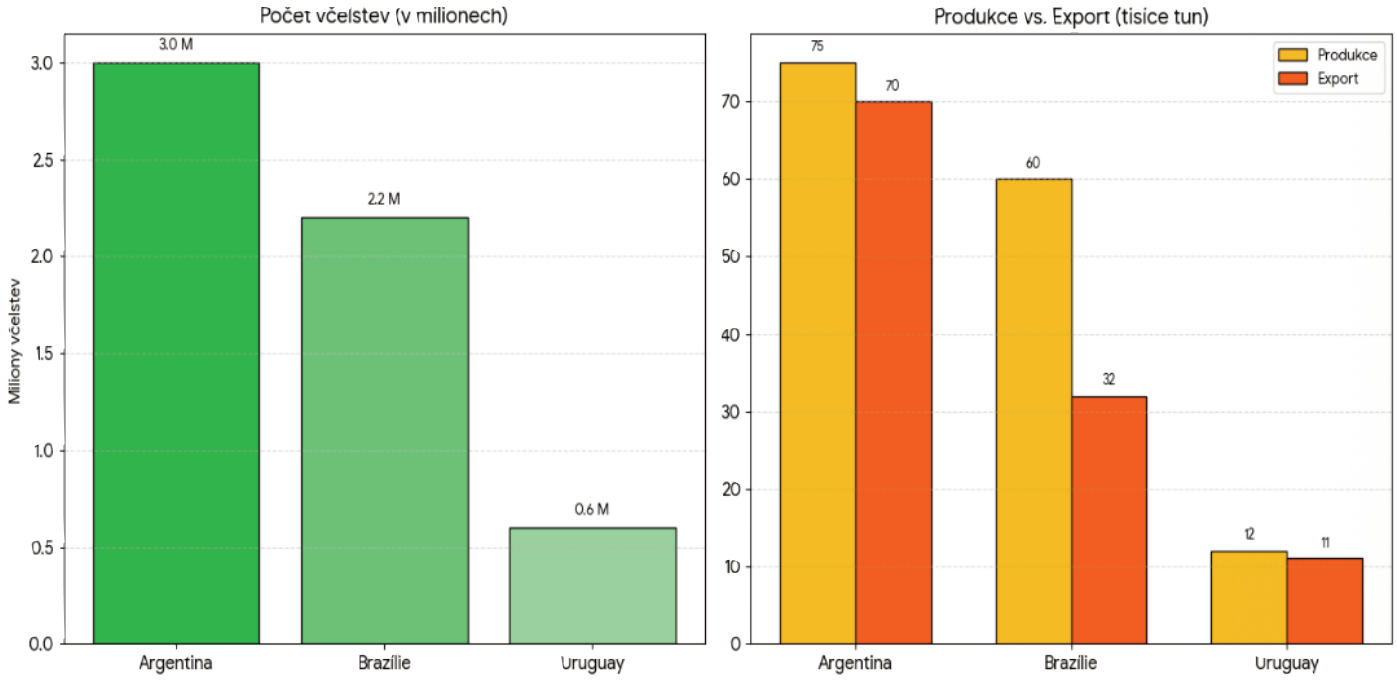
global honey trade, who are currently subject to a 17.3% duty when imported into the EU: Argentina, with highly intensive beekeeping (3 million bee colonies), produces about 70,000 tonnes of honey, more than 90% of which is intended for export. It currently exports over 20,000 tonnes to the EU and is therefore the main exporter from Mercosur The second exporter in the group is Brazil. It has the same number of bee colonies as Ukraine (2.2 million colonies) and honey production of up to 60,000 tonnes, half of which is intended for export. Of this, less than 5,000 tonnes has headed to Europe in recent years, but significant potential remains – for example, in 2012, Brazil exported 22,000 tonnes of honey to the EU. The third exporter in the Mercosur group is Uruguay. In this country, with a third of the population of the Czech Republic but more than twice the area, the number of bee colonies is the same as ours. Honey production reaches 12,000 tonnes, of which 10,000 tonnes are intended for export. Most exports from Mercosur currently primarily for price reasons go outside the EU.

After previous scandals due to the presence of residues of unauthorised substances and syrups, India exports negligible hundreds of tonnes of honey to the EU. However, the risk of eliminating European beekeeping in the event of any advantage for honey imports from this country to the EU is enormous, just as in the case of Mercosur countries. India would be capable of literally flooding the EU market with its annual honey exports approaching 100,000 tonnes. Currently, this production from 4.5 million bee colonies is directed mainly to the USA and Saudi Arabia.

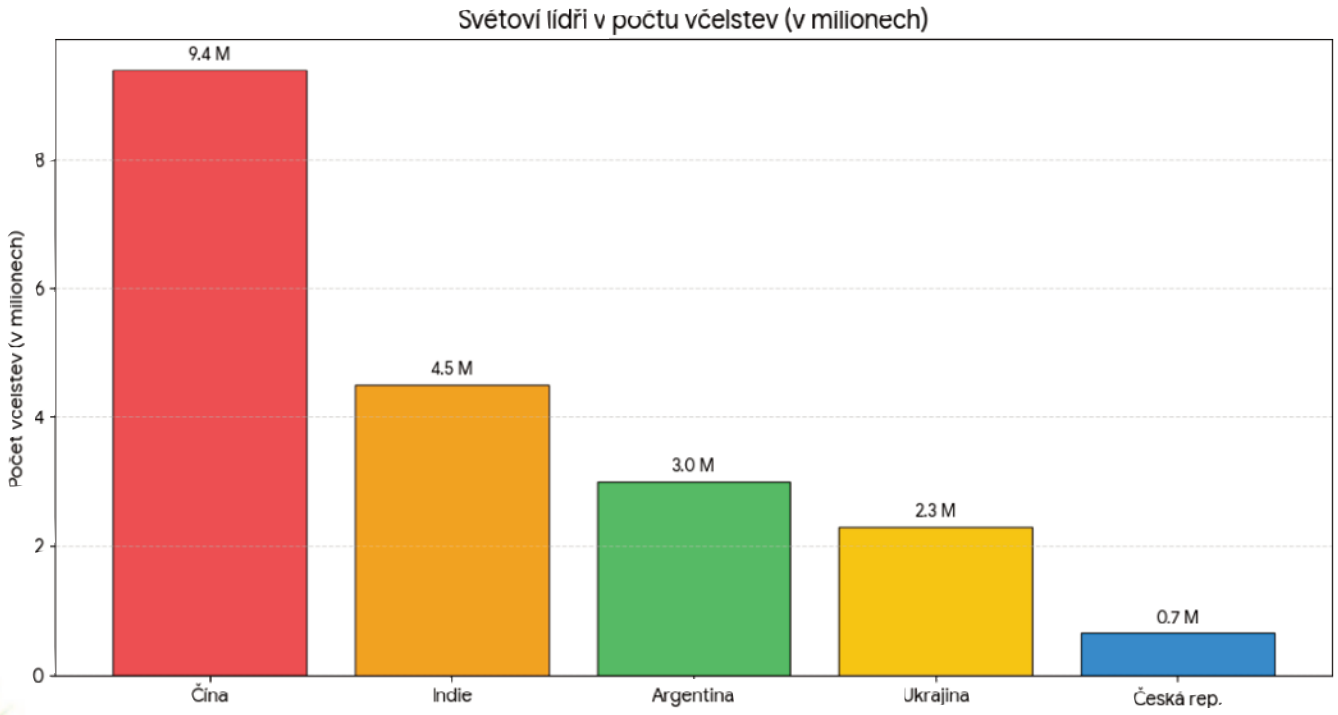
The agreement between the EU and the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay) was politically negotiated back in 2019 but has not yet been ratified. It awaits approval by EU member states, where it faces resistance, especially from France, which perceives that European agriculture would pay for potential economic aid with the export of European automotive production.
However, if the agreement were to enter into force in its currently proposed form, it would not mean the abolition of customs duties on all honey. It would work as follows. The EU will open a duty-free quota of 45,000 tonnes of honey per year for Mercosur countries. The achievement of the duty-free quota is supposed to take 6 years of gradual tariff reduction, similar to Vietnam, which achieved the advantage of exporting honey to the EU duty-free in the summer of last year. (Due to known quality problems, Vietnamese honey production has not gained much ground in the EU market, and the EU buys Chinese honey mostly directly). Only after 6 years would a 0% tariff apply to 45,000 tonnes of honey from Mercosur countries annually.

Why are we discussing this? Mercosur countries (mainly Argentina and Brazil) export over 100,000 tonnes of honey worldwide annually. The quota of 45,000 tonnes therefore does not cover their entire export potential. However for European beekeepers, this is still a sensitive

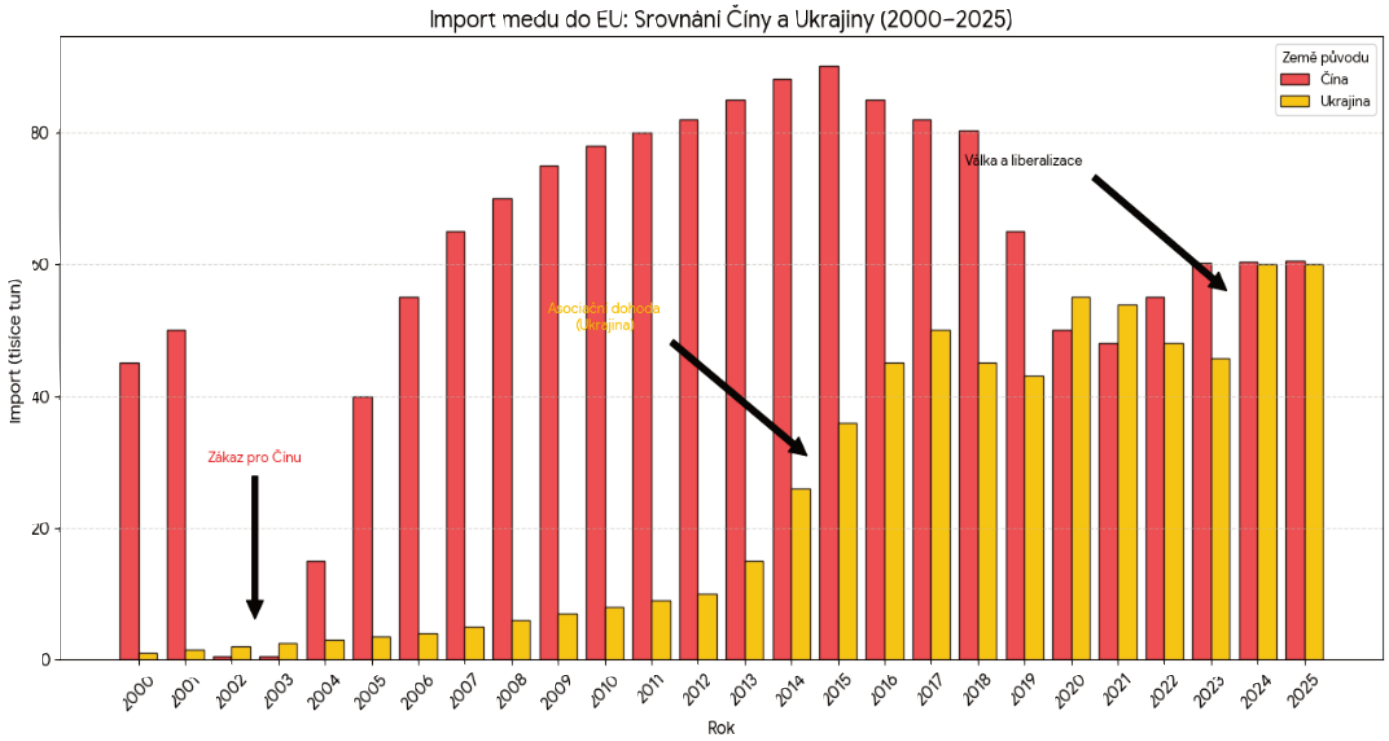
issue because 45,000 tonnes of cheap duty-free honey could further depress prices in a market where prices are already determined by imports of honey of questionable quality at dumping prices, which not even Mercosur countries can currently match, and often not even countries with earlier and still valid bilateral agreements with the EU - Mexico, which has had duty-free honey imports into the EU since 2000, and Chile (an associate member of Mercosur), which has applied duty-free imports to the EU since 2003.



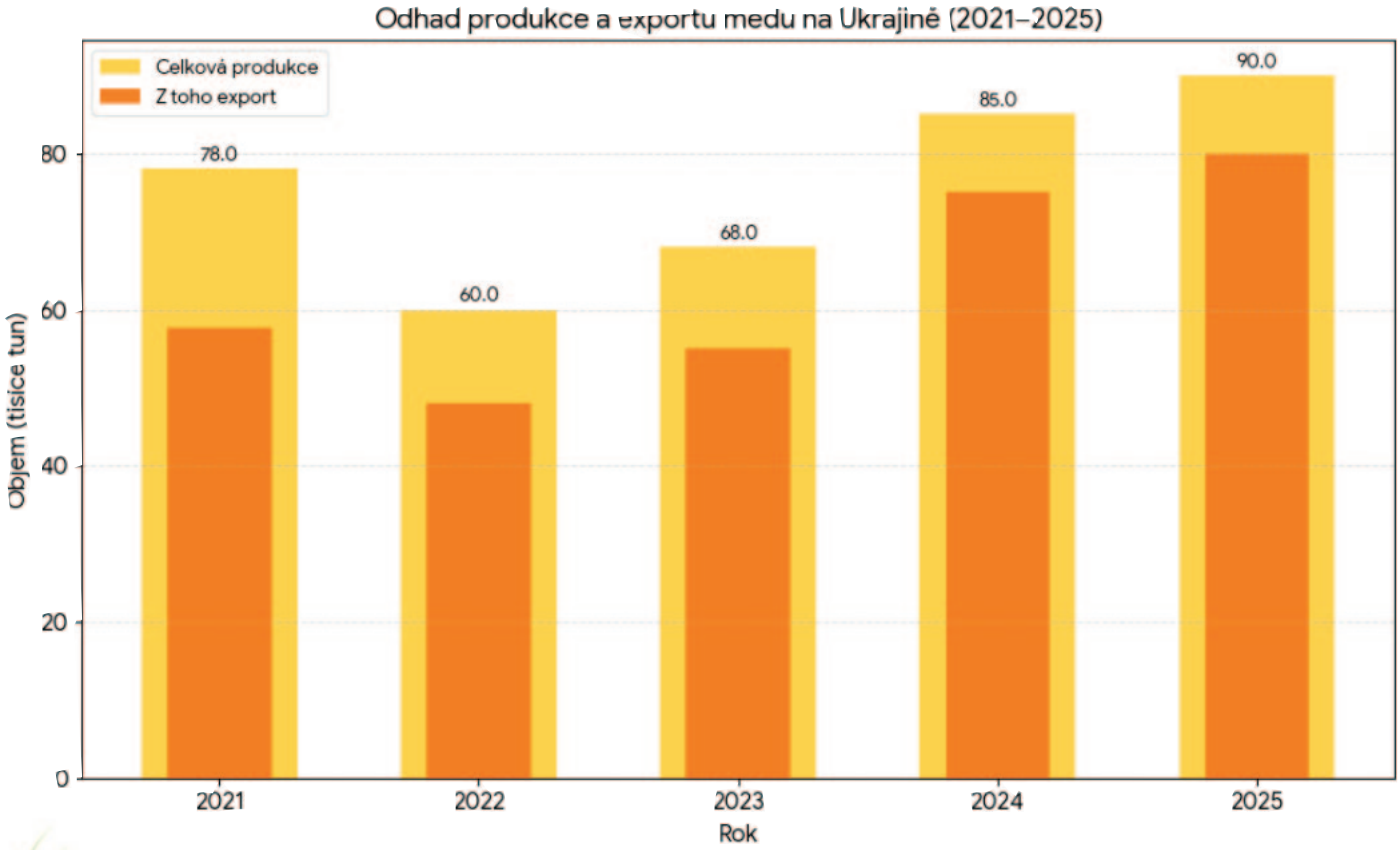

Beekeeping in Mercosur countries with significant honey exports.



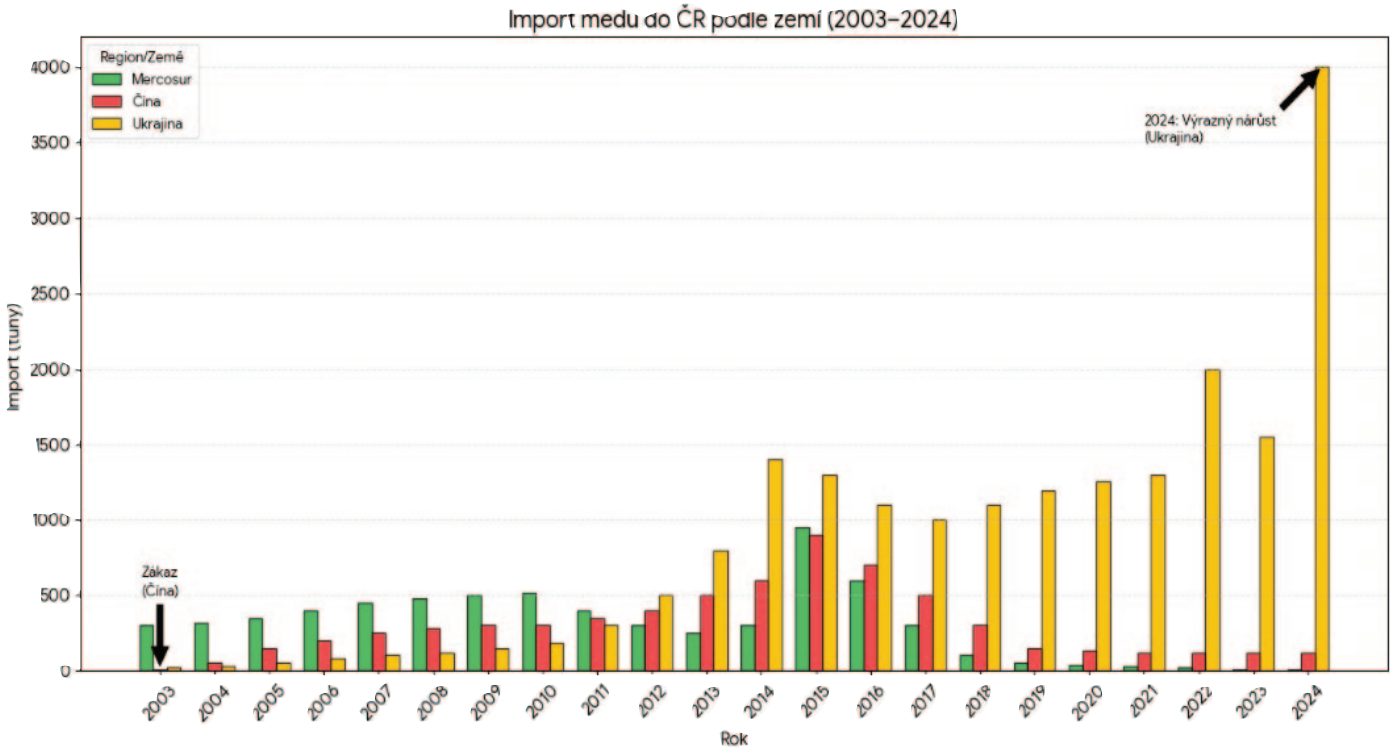

Countries with the highest number of bee colonies – in the Czech Republic currently only 0.6 million colonies.




The development of honey imports into the EU and its impact on bans, customs barriers, and their abolition, using the example of China and Ukraine.

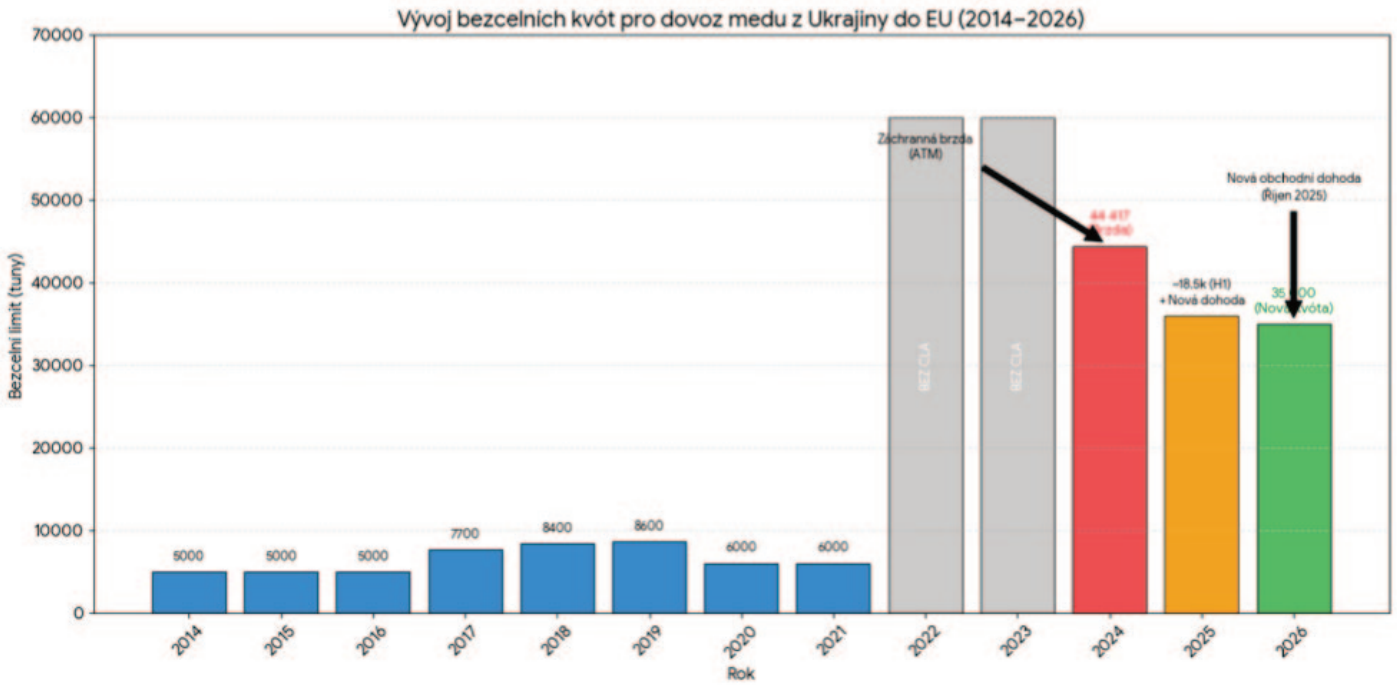



The development of honey production and export in Ukraine in recent years.




Honey imports into the Czech Republic:

Mercosur countries (what earlier to be is not) – China (?) – Ukraine (what never was is)




The influence and necessity of regulation are evident even in the extremely liberal EU trade policy.

RNDr. Václav Švamberk

Chairman

Czech Beekeeping Development Society

BUY LOCAL HONEY

European Beekeeping Association

# END OF LABELING

## "BLEND OF EU AND NON-EU HONEY"

At the proposal of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and with strong support from the Republic of Slovenia, from 14 June 2026 all honey in the EU must be labeled with the exact country of origin.

**END OF LABELING "BLEND OF EU AND NON-EU HONEY"**

# EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING CAUGHT BETWEEN THE PRESSURES OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS AND THE SLOW MILLS OF BRUSSELS

The European Beekeeping Association (EBA) and its Scientific Committee for the Safety and Quality of Bee Products sent a stark warning to the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Christian Hansen, on 2 February 2026 about the future of the industry. Below we summarise the key points of the letter and the official response from the European Commission, which reveals significant differences in the speed of resolving the problem of adulterated honey. Both the letter and the response can be seen in the attachment. An expertly substantiated letter from the European Beekeepers' Association warns of the dangers of the EU-Mercosur agreement for European beekeeping.

Due to the lack of control of imported honey and the absence of a European reference laboratory, the market is flooded with adulteration, which threatens the economic stability of domestic beekeepers. The EBA demands the immediate establishment of a laboratory for determining the authenticity of honey, stricter border controls and the unification of quality standards for all honey on the market.

The EBA and its scientists emphasize that the survival of European beekeepers is crucial for ensuring pollination, which cannot be replaced by imports in agriculture, and that decisive measures are therefore necessary to protect the industry and consumers.

The European Commission responded to these efforts by Slovenian and European beekeepers in an official letter to the President of the SBA and EBA, Boštjan Noč. In its response, the Commission acknowledges the key role of beekeeping in pollination and environmental conservation, but at the same time defends the import of honey from Mercosur countries as a necessary element to cover European demand. In doing so, it relies on the envisaged safeguard mechanisms, which are supposed to come into force only in the event of significant market disruptions.

The main focus of the Commission's response is on the development of new, harmonised analysis methods within the framework of the HarmHoney project. Although the beekeeping profession calls for rapid action, Brussels explains that scientific processes take time; The results of the validations are not expected until the end of next year, and the final legal introduction of the methods for detecting syrups is not expected until June 2028. Regarding the pressing

issue of border controls, the Commission acknowledges that honey is currently viewed primarily through the prism of health risks, and not necessarily through the risk of fraud, which directly affects the low intensity of checks (1-4%).

They promise to consider adjustments, but only within the framework of existing legislation. The Commission also remains quite cautious on the issue of establishing a European Reference Laboratory for Honey. Instead of immediate approval, the members of the Honey Platform have been called upon to further discuss how such a laboratory would operate without duplicating existing institutions, and how to ensure its long-term financial viability.

The Commission's response thus indicates that they are aware of the seriousness of the situation, but that the concrete legislative and infrastructural changes required by the profession will only occur in the coming years. Unfortunately, this means that the fight for a cleaner honey market will require a lot of patience and constant pressure on decision-makers from beekeeping organizations!

The European Beekeeping Association is preparing a professional and scientifically based response to the Commissioner's letter and calls on all its members to respond.

**Boštjan Noč**
President of the SBA and EBA

**Dr. Nik Lupše**
Food Safety Advisor
Slovenian Beekeepers' Association
and Head of Scientific Committees of the EBA

# A REPLY FROM THE CABINET OF COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHE HANSEN

The European Beekeeping Association has received a reply from the Cabinet of Commissioner Christophe Hansen regarding clarification on CAP payments per beehive (Ares(2026)2074780).

The European Beekeeping Association wrote to Commissioner Christophe Hansen requesting clarification on CAP payments per beehive. The Commissioner's office has now replied, and in the following email you can read the full response, which explains how Member States may provide support per beehive under eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate commitments, including organic beekeeping.

Ref. Ares(2026)2074780 24/02/2026

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B Sustainability
**The Director**

Brussels
AGRI.B.1/DS

Mr Boštjan Noč
President of the European
Beekeeping Association
Brdo pri Lukovici 8
1225 Lukovica, Slovenija
Eba@ebaeurope.eu

Dear Mr Noč,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January 2026 to Commissioner Hansen, requesting clarification on the introduction of CAP payments per beehive under eco-schemes and agri-

environment-climate commitments, which was mentioned by the Commissioner during his visit to Slovenia on 24 May 2025 for World Bee Day. You also ask at what stage this type of payment would be introduced and when and how these would be implemented at national level.

The support you mention refers to a newly introduced amendment to the CAP strategic plan regulation ([1]), allowing Member States to grant support in the form of an annual payment per beehive to active farmers under eco-schemes under Article 31 of that Regulation, or a payment per beehive to beneficiaries under agri-environment-climate commitments, including organic farming, under Article 70 of that Regulation. The definition of "beehive" set out in Article 36 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/126 applies to this form of support.

With this change, support can not only be granted per hectare or in the form of a lump sum, but also per beehive. This will simplify the calculation of support for environmental commitments related to apiculture.

This change is one of the amendments introduced by Regulation (EU) 2025/2649([2]) to simplify the rules of CAP Strategic Plans and reduce the administrative burden for farmers and national administrations. This regulation entered into force on 1 January 2026.

Thus, Member States may already introduce in their CAP Strategic Plans, eco-schemes or agri-environment-climate commitments for beekeepers who undertake voluntary commitments in favour of the environment, for biodiversity and pollination. Support for these commitments can be calculated and paid per beehive. The decision to introduce such interventions rests with Member States. They are also responsible for the design of those interventions, including rules on eligible beneficiaries, supported commitments, and support rates per beehive.

In the current CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027, fourteen Member States have specific agri-environment-climate interventions for beekeepers ([3]), including for organic beekeeping. One of these fourteen is Slovenia. We hope that the simplification of the regulation will encourage more Member States to include support for beekeeping benefitting the environment in their CAP Strategic Plans.

The Commission's proposal for the CAP after 2027 ([4]) maintains the possibility for Member States to provide such support for agri-environment and climate actions. This is

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, *OJ L 435 6.12.2021, p. 1*.

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Diane.SPITERI@ec.europa.eu

in addition to support for apiculture interventions as explained in our letter of 4 December 2025 (ARES (2025)10710170).

Yours sincerely,

Gijs SCHILTHUIS

c.c.: Nik Lupše – EBA, nik.lupse@ebaeurope.eu

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([2]) Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties, *OJ L, 2025/2649, 31.12.2025*.

([3]) For these interventions support is granted on a per hectare basis or on the basis of lump sums for categories of beekeepers based on their number of beehives (using ranges).

([4]) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034, COM/2025/560 final.

Electronically signed on 23/02/2026 20:31 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

# EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPLIES TO EBA ON HONEY MARKET PROTECTION

Ref. Ares(2026)2125716 - 25/02/2026

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate E – Markets
**The Director (acting)**

Brussels
AGRI.E.3/JG/KS ARES(2026)2010739

Mr Boštjan Noc
President of the European
Beekeeping Association
Brdo pri Lukovici 8
1225 Lukovica
SLOVENIJA
eba@ebaeurope.eu

**Subject:** Protection of the European honey market and need to reinforce the fight against fraud

Dear Mr Noc,

Thank you for your letter of 2 February addressed to Commissioner Hansen on the protection of the European honey market and the need to strengthen the fight against fraud. The Commissioner has asked me to reply on his behalf.

First, I would like to reassure you that the Commission is fully aware of the importance of beekeeping for agriculture, notably through its contribution to the environment and

pollination. All honey marketed in the EU—without exception—must comply with quality and labelling requirements laid down in the Honey Directive ([1]), subject to controls and, in case of non-compliance, sanctions by Member States' competent authorities.

With regard to imports, market access volumes included in the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement may contribute to meeting EU demand for honey while ensuring the diversification of imports into the Union. A safeguard mechanism is also put in place to protect the EU market in the event of serious harm caused by imports.

As you are aware, the project to harmonise analytical methods (HarmHoney project) is ongoing. It has entered the interlaboratory validation phase, and results are expected by the end of next year. High-quality research requires time for the scientific process to unfold and cannot be meaningfully accelerated.

The Commission is mandated by the Council and the Parliament to adopt, by 14 June 2028, implementing acts laying down methods of analysis to detect adulterated honey. This legal framework will enable national authorities to further strengthen official controls and traceability measures for both EU-produced and imported honey.

The Commission takes note of issues raised in relation to the classification of honey within the Union's risk-based framework for official controls. Under the current legislative set-up, the organisation of controls at border control posts is determined primarily by considerations linked to public and animal health risks.

Within this framework, the prevention and detection of food fraud also constitute important objectives of the Union's control system. Controls are therefore planned and carried out on the basis of risk assessment, complemented where appropriate by enhanced cooperation, information exchange and coordinated actions at Union level. In light of evolving evidence and risk analyses, the Commission will continue to reflect on whether further adjustments may be justified for products identified as potentially vulnerable to fraudulent practices, while ensuring that any such considerations remain proportionate and fully consistent with the existing legal framework.

Regarding the possible establishment of a European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for honey, this issue was discussed during the Honey Platform meeting of 12 November 2025. The state of play of the legal framework for establishing a European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) or a European Union Reference Centre (EURC) was presented, and the importance of avoiding overlaps with existing laboratories, ensuring financial viability, and maintaining coherence with the broader EU authenticity and integrity strategy was highlighted.

([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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In this context, members of the Honey Platform have been invited to reflect on the scope, structure and expected benefits of a potential EURL or EURC dedicated to honey before any further steps are taken. These matters may be discussed again at one of the forthcoming Honey Platform meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank you and the other members of the Honey Platform for your valuable work in providing the Commission with advice, data and information. Your contributions support reflection on possible future delegated and implementing acts, as foreseen in the Honey Directive.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Brigitte MISONNE





The European Commission has responded to the European Beekeeping Association (EBA) regarding the protection of the EU honey market and the fight against fraud.

In its reply, the Commission reaffirmed the application of the Honey Directive 2001/110/EC, ongoing work on harmonised analytical methods for detecting adulterated honey (HarmHoney project), and the planned adoption of EU implementing acts on analysis methods by June 2028. The possible establishment of a European Union Reference Laboratory for honey was also addressed within the Honey Platform discussions.

The full letter of the Commission can be published in this article.

# NEW LETTER TO COMMISSIONER HANSEN

SUBJECT:
**RESPONSE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION TO YOUR RECENT COMMUNICATION ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES FACING EUROPEAN BEEKEEPERS**

Dear Commissioner Hansen,

On behalf of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA), we thank you for your response to the concerns raised regarding the state of the EU honey market, import controls, and the enforcement framework under Union law. We appreciate the opportunity to engage constructively and would like to provide clarifications and further considerations on the points addressed.

## 1. Compliance with the Honey Directive an Enforcement Gaps

You reaffirm that all honey marketed in the EU must comply—without exception—with the quality and labelling requirements laid down in the Honey Directive and that non-compliance is subject to controls and sanctions by Member States' competent authorities.

This objective is fully shared by genuine producers and consumers. However, in practice, what is legally framed as a "must" has too often become the exception rather than the rule. The reasons are well known: systemic legislative gaps and weaknesses in the implementation of existing legislation, both at the border level and within the internal market. The Commission is aware of these shortcomings; what remains necessary is the political will to address them decisively. The EBA stands ready to detail the specific gaps that persist at each stage of the honey trade chain.

A central weakness lies in the structure of controls under Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Official Controls Regulation – OCR). Border Control Posts (BCPs) frequently detect suspicious consignments but cannot refuse entry because the analytical methods currently used are not established as legally binding EU reference or officially validated control methods under the OCR. As a result, consignments are merely flagged as "suspicious," and responsibility is shifted to the national competent authorities.

However, under Article 34 of the OCR, competent authorities must rely on legally prescribed reference methods or fully validated confirmatory methods that are admissible in court. In many Member States, such validated and legally defensible methods are not yet available. Consequently, authorities are often unable to reclassify suspected honey as adulterated, even when there are strong indications. This enforcement gap is a major structural driver of honey fraud in the EU.

## 2. Imports, Market Balance, and the EU–Mercosur Agreement

Regarding imports under the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement, you indicate that additional market access may help meet EU demand while diversifying supply, with a safeguard mechanism in place in case of serious harm.

While it is correct that the EU is approximately 63% self-sufficient in honey production, this figure requires careful interpretation. According to Eurostat data for 2024, the EU produced approximately 282,000 tonnes, imported around 175,000 tonnes, consumed 435,000 tonnes, and exported 25,435 tonnes. The Union already imports substantial volumes, including honey that is subsequently re-exported. The issue is therefore not physical shortage but persistent price pressure caused by large quantities of low-priced imports—primarily from China, Ukraine, and Argentina—often entering at prices below €2/kg.

Additional duty-free volumes from Mercosur risk intensifying these distortions rather than addressing structural weaknesses.

Regarding diversification, most monofloral varieties produced in Mercosur countries (e.g., clover, eucalyptus, rapeseed, sunflower) are already widely available within the Union. Furthermore, the prevalence of blended products in global trade continues to raise concerns about traceability and origin transparency. In some years, Argentina's export volumes have exceeded its declared domestic production, which warrants closer scrutiny.

The bilateral safeguard clause embedded in the EU–Mercosur Agreement is, by design, reactive and temporary. It requires a formal demonstration of serious harm and is typically activated only after damage has already materialised. For a sector under prolonged structural strain, reliance on ex post corrective measures does not provide sufficient reassurance.

Additionally, the distinction between food fraud enforcement and trade defence instruments remains significant. Very low-priced imports have thus far been treated primarily as fraud issues rather than as potential dumping cases under EU trade defence rules. This legal framing has substantial implications for adequate market protection.

The findings of the 2023 "Report from the Hive" are particularly concerning: in 2021–2022, 63% of honey exported from Brazil and 54% from Argentina to the EU was found non-compliant with EU legislative requirements. In this context, further tariff liberalisation without prior strengthening of enforcement mechanisms risks exacerbating existing imbalances.

The central question is therefore not one of numerical self-sufficiency, but whether additional duty-free imports introduced into an already price-distorted and enforcement-challenged market may further weaken a strategically crucial agricultural sector. A precautionary, evidence-based approach appears warranted.

## 3. The HarmHoney Project and Validation of Analytical Methods

We acknowledge the progress of the HarmHoney project, led by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which aims to harmonise analytical methods for detecting honey adulteration. High-quality scientific work indeed requires time. Nevertheless, several structural and legal concerns merit attention.

First, for enforcement to be effective, analytical methods must be fully validated, accredited, and legally defensible.

The interlaboratory validation phase, under ISO 5725 standards, is critical. Large-scale EU-wide validation typically requires participation of 15–30 laboratories (with a minimum of eight), and for robust reproducibility, ideally more than 30.

Fewer participants significantly weaken statistical reliability at the 95% probability level.

The JRC has indicated collaboration with National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and Germany's National Reference Centre for Authenticity. However, official NRLs for honey have not been formally established because the delegated act foreseen under Article 100 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 has not been adopted. Without a fully operational NRL network, large-scale validation in line with ISO 5725 requirements is structurally constrained and unlikely to be completed within a short timeframe.

Second, even after interlaboratory validation, a further phase is required: standardization and legal integration. Methods must be adopted by CEN and/or ISO and integrated into EU official control legislation. Laboratories must be trained, and the methods incorporated into TRACES, import controls, and enforcement workflows. Given the biological variability of honey and the adaptive capacity of fraudsters, this phase realistically requires at least two to three years.

Third, while the JRC may legally develop and validate analytical methods, it cannot confer legally binding status on them unless formally designated as a European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) under the OCR. Publication or technical validation alone does not make a method legally binding for official control purposes. Only methods laid down in Union legislation by the Commission through implementing acts acquire that status.

Under the OCR, the only officially prescribed and legally binding reference methods are those established by Union law. This legal distinction is fundamental for enforcement credibility.

## 4. Risk-Based Controls at Border Level

We note that the organisation of controls at Border Control Posts is currently determined primarily by public and animal health considerations.

However, Article 47(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 empowers the Commission to adopt implementing acts imposing reinforced controls where there is evidence of known or emerging risks, including widespread serious non-compliance. Honey clearly falls within this category, given the documented scale of fraud.

In light of 2023 coordinated control findings, honey may be classified as a product presenting a persistent high risk of non-compliance, thereby justifying systematic reinforced checks rather than sporadic or intelligence-led interventions.

The Commission could therefore strengthen border controls by mandating reinforced physical checks, establishing minimum sampling percentages, and requiring laboratory authenticity testing prior to release for free circulation. Such measures would significantly enhance preventive enforcement.

## 5. Establishment of an EURL and NRLs for Honey

You indicate that the Honey Platform has been invited to reflect on the scope and structure of a potential EURL or European Union Reference Centre for honey.

The legal framework governing the establishment, tasks, and scope of EURLs is already clearly defined in Articles 92–93, 97, and 98 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, while Articles 100–101 provide for the establishment of National Reference Laboratories. These provisions have been in force since 2018.

Under the same legal framework, several EURLs—such as those for foodborne viruses, fish and crustacean diseases, and halogenated persistent organic pollutants—have been operational since 2018. The continued absence of an EURL and formally designated NRLs for honey constitutes a structural gap in the control architecture.

Transferring responsibility for reflection to the Honey Platform does not address this legal omission. The establishment of an EURL for honey and the adoption of the necessary delegated acts for NRLs are actions foreseen by existing legislation and should have been implemented years ago.

## Conclusion

The EBA Scientific Committee respectfully submits that the challenges facing the EU honey sector are primarily structural and legal, rather

than conceptual. Clear legislative tools already exist within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and related Union law. What is required is their full and timely implementation.

We remain at your disposal to provide further technical documentation and to contribute constructively to strengthening the integrity, transparency, and sustainability of the EU honey market.

Respectfully,

**Boštjan Noč**
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

Contributing members of the Scientific Committee for Safety and Quality of Bee Products:

**Dr. Juraj Majtan**
**Prof. Dr. Dražen Lušić**
**Prof. Dr. Andreas Thrasyvoulou**
**Dr. Roxana Spulber**

# NEW LETTER TO EU AUTHORITIES – PROTECTING EUROPEAN BEEKEEPERS AND CONSUMERS MUST BE A PRIORITY!

SUBJECT:
**REQUESTING TO EXPEDITE MEASURES THAT WILL PROTECT EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING FROM AN INFLUX OF FRAUDULENT HONEY**

Dear Commissioner Hansen,

On behalf of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA), which represents more than 420,000 beekeepers from 32 countries, we are writing to express our profound concern regarding the potential implications of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement for European beekeeping and the integrity of honey quality standards within the European Union. As members of the EBA Scientific Committee on the Quality of Bee Products, we have been tasked with conveying the Association's position on this critical matter. The impending ratification of this agreement has once again exposed critical gaps in our capacity to monitor and verify the authenticity and quality of honey entering the European market.

The Mercosur agreement will significantly increase honey imports into the EU. The EBA firmly supports the principle of free trade but believes this must be predicated on a fundamental requirement: all honey entering our market must be produced according to the same rigorous standards we demand of European beekeepers. Without adequate verification mechanisms, we risk undermining both consumer protection and the viability of European beekeeping. In addition, it is essential to emphasize that while honey can be traded internationally, the critical ecosystem service of pollination cannot be imported. European beekeepers provide irreplaceable pollination services that underpin European agricultural production. The economic viability of European beekeeping operations depends significantly on honey production revenues, which enable beekeepers to maintain healthy colonies and provide essential pollination services.

Currently, the European Union lacks the essential infrastructure needed to ensure effective market surveillance:

• There is no designated EU reference laboratory for honey authentication and quality assessment. This represents a significant institutional deficit that leaves us unable to establish standardized testing methodologies, validate

fraud-detection methods, or provide authoritative technical guidance to member states.• Sophisticated honey fraud techniques—including adulteration with undeclared syrups, misrepresentation of geographical origin, and falsification of botanical source—require advanced analytical capabilities that are not uniformly available across the EU.

Recently, the EU Honey Platform was established to address these challenges precisely.

However, progress has been insufficient given the urgency of the situation. The EBA reespectfully calls upon the Commission to:

• accelerate the Honey Platform's work with concrete timelines and deliverables

• prioritize the establishment of technical working groups on authentication methods

• ensure adequate representation from scientific institutions with proven expertise in honey analysis

• allocate appropriate resources to translate Honey Platform recommendations into binding regulations

The EBA urges the Commission to immediately designate and fund an EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for honey. This laboratory should be tasked with:

• Developing and validating harmonized analytical methods for honey authentication

• Providing reference materials and proficiency testing for national laboratories

• Offering scientific and technical support to enforcement authorities

We emphasize the urgency of immediate action rather than deferring this critical infrastructure for another decade. The legal framework for establishing a European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for honey is clearly defined in Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The Honey Platform must operate within this established framework and should urgently promote the adoption of delegated acts to establish the Honey EURL in full accordance with Articles 92–94 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

However, establishing an EURL alone will not adequately address the systemic challenges we face. A second critical deficiency exists in border control legislation, where honey is classified as a low-risk public health product. Consequently, only proportionate physical checks are applied at

borders, permitting the majority of imported shipments to enter the EU without comprehensive controls. In practice, this classification has facilitated honey fraud at EU entry points.

The EBA therefore respectfully proposes that the Commission consider introducing a targeted exception within border control legislation to ensure that physical checks systematically apply to products classified as high-risk for fraud, regardless of their classification regarding public health risk. Almost all EU directives and regulations contain provisions for such exceptions. Ifthere exists a genuine commitment to combating food fraud, these provisions must be appropriately enforced.

European beekeepers operate under some of the world's most stringent regulations regarding veterinary treatments, environmental protection, and production practices. These standards come with high costs. When imports enter our market without the same level of scrutiny, we create an uneven playing field that threatens the economic viability of sustainable beekeeping across Europe. Moreover, this is fundamentally a consumer protection issue. European citizens have the right to know that the honey they purchase—whether of European or third-country origin—meets the quality and authenticity standards they expect.

On behalf of the EBA, we respectfully urge you to treat this matter with the urgency it deserves. The establishment of an EU Reference Laboratory for honey and the acceleration of the Honey Platform's work should be immediate priorities. European beekeepers, consumers, and the integrity of our market depend on swift and decisive action.

The EBA and its Scientific Committee on the Quality of Bee Products remain available to provide scientific support for any initiatives in this area.

Respectfully,
**Boštjan Noč**
President of the EBA

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

Contributing members of the Scientific Committee for Safety and Quality of Bee Products:
**Dr. Juraj Majtan**
**Prof. Dr. Dražen Lušić**
**Prof. Dr. Andreas Thrasyvoulou**
**Dr. Alvija Šalaševičienė**

# RESPONSE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE QUERY OF THE EBA AND SBA

## SENT ON 28 JANUARY 2026

In response to an inquiry from the European Beekeeping Association and the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association sent on 28 January 2026 and addressed to Commissioner Hansen, the European Commission confirmed important innovations in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. In doing so, Commissioner Hansen kept his promise made during his visit to Slovenia on 24 May 2025 to mark World Bee Day. The full response, including a reference to the regulation, is attached. The key change, which entered into force on 1 January 2026, allows Member States to apply support under eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate obligations directly in the form of annual financial support per individual beehive, instead of the previous flat rates or payments per area (hectare). This measure was introduced with the aim of reducing administrative burdens and facilitating the calculation of compensation for beekeepers who actively contribute to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and pollination through their activities. In the current period of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027, Slovenia is among the fourteen Member States that have included specific interventions for beekeeping in their strategic plans, including the organic sector, and the new regulation gives it additional flexibility in designing national rules on beneficiaries and the level of support. The Commission's proposal for the programming period after 2027 maintains the possibility of such financial support, which is ESSENTIAL for the long-term stability of beekeeping and recognition of its key role in the agricultural ecosystem. The European Commission stresses that the decision to introduce such interventions is now in the hands of the Member States. They are also responsible for the design of the aforementioned interventions, including the rules on beneficiaries, supported obligations and support rates per beehive. The Beekeepers' Association of Slovenia has already contacted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food to check the plans and coordinate the implementation of support for Slovenian beekeepers. EBA strongly encourages all EBA members to do the same.

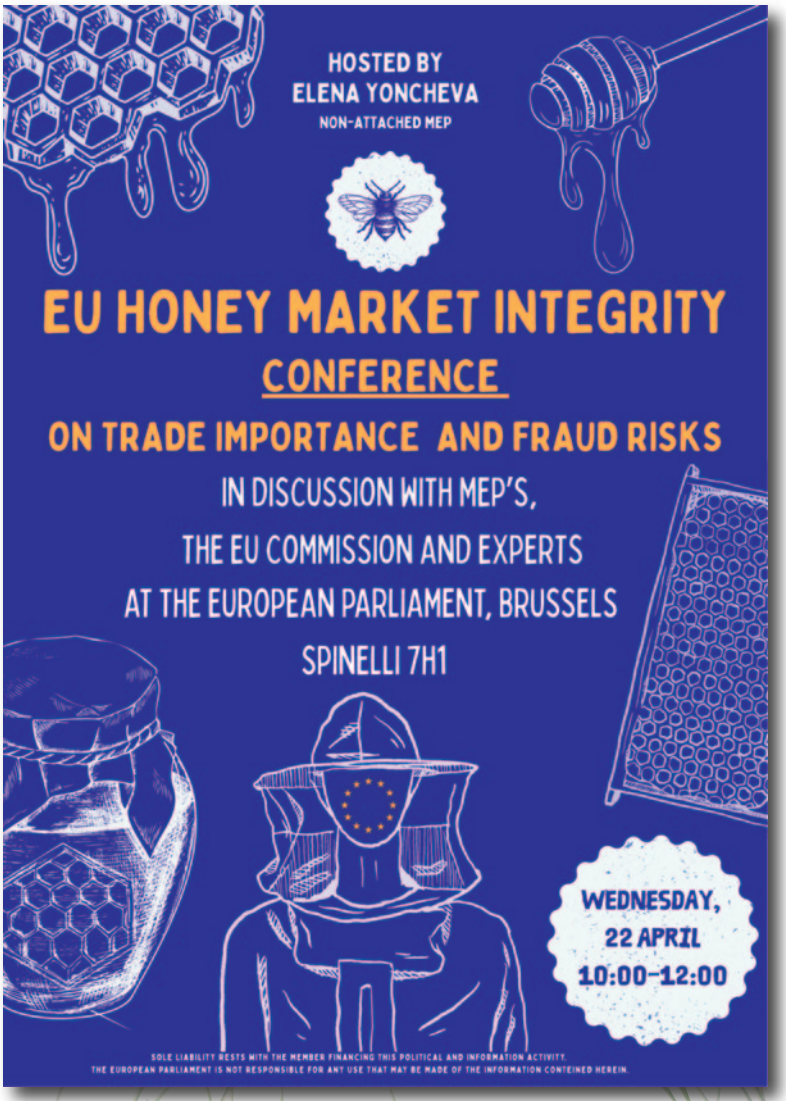
**Boštjan Noč**
President of the EBA

# EBA PRESIDENT INVITED TO SPEAK AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONFERENCE ON HONEY MARKET INTEGRITY

The President of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA), Boštjan Noč, has been invited to participate as a speaker at the conference “EU Honey Market Integrity: Trade Importance and Fraud Risks”, which will take place on 22 April 2026 at the European Parliament.

The conference is organised by Elena Yoncheva, Member of the European Parliament, and will focus on safeguarding the integrity of the EU honey market and addressing the growing risks of fraudulent and adulterated honey entering the EU supply chain.

The event will bring together Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission, including officials from European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE), and European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), to discuss trade flows, controls, traceability, and enforcement measures aimed at protecting beekeepers, consumers, and fair competition in the EU honey market.



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# INFESTATION WITH *TROPILAELAPS* MITES

**Latin Name:**
*Tropilaelaps clareae*
*Tropilaelaps mercedesae*
*Tropilaelaps koenigerum*
*Tropilaelaps thaii*

**Infestation with *Tropilaelaps* spp. is a statutory notifiable disease in the European Union (EU).** Under EU legislation, any detection must be reported to the competent authorities.

Among the four *Tropilaelaps* species, only *T. clareae* and *T. mercedesae* are known to parasitise *Apis mellifera*.

*Tropilaelaps* is **not yet present in the EU.** However, **there is a significant risk of its introduction** due to its recent spread in Central Asia and the Black Sea-Caucasus region.

**Damage in Colonies:** In colonies with high mite levels, *Tropilaelaps* causes damage similar to that of *Varroa*, another mite commonly parasiting honeybees. Both brood and adult bees suffer high mortality, leading to colony decline, collapse, or absconding. ***Apis mellifera* colonies can completely collapse within two to three months of *Tropilaelaps* infestation.**

**Beekeeper National Registration:** It is essential that **all beekeepers register in their national database**. If locations of colonies at risk of *Tropilaelaps* infestation are not known, the chances of detecting its arrival, achieving eradication, or even controlling it in the event of an introduction are severely compromised.

**EU Legislation:** Infestation with *Tropilaelaps* spp. is subject to surveillance within the EU and measures to prevent its introduction and spread between Member States.

**EU legislation prohibits imports of package bees or colonies from Third Countries**, except from Switzerland. **The importation of honeybee queens is allowed from a very limited number of non-EU countries**. These import regulations serve as the main defence against the introduction of *Tropilaelaps*.

***Tropilaelaps* can no longer be eradicated once it is well established.**
**Vigilance is essential to early detection.**

## *How to Recognise* Tropilaelaps?


- The mite has **four pairs of legs, with the first pair held upright, resembling antennae** (a).
- **Adult body colour: reddish-brown**, lighter than *Varroa destructor* (b). Immature mites are whitish (c).
- **Size: approximately 1 mm by 0.5 mm** (a). Visible to the naked eye, but smaller than *Varroa* (b).
- The body of *Tropilaelaps* is **longer than it is wide**, in contrast to *Varroa*, which is crab-shaped (b).


- When examined under a magnifying glass, the mite displays **characteristic chitinous plates on its ventral side** (a).
- *Tropilaelaps* is a **fast-running mite**, whereas *Varroa* is moving relatively slowly.

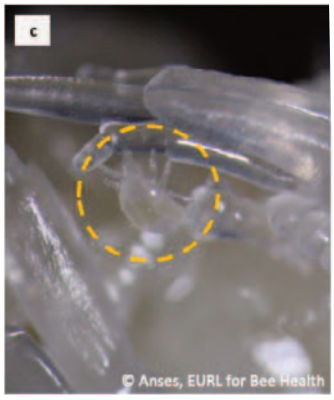
## *Biological Cycle*

- **The life cycle of *Tropilaelaps* is quite similar to that of *Varroa*, as both mites reproduce within the honeybee brood.**

It lasts approximately one week. Adult mites lay their eggs inside the brood cells, where the emerging immature mites (c) feed on the haemolymph (bee blood) of developing bees, causing multiple injuries and eventually transmitting viruses.
Mating is not necessary for reproduction: unfertilised females can lay eggs. Females can reproduce without going through a phoretic phase on adult bees (time spent on adults).

**These characteristics enable *Tropilaelaps* to multiply much faster than *Varroa*.**

- ***Tropilaelaps* feeds exclusively on brood** and cannot feed on adult honeybees as it is unable to pierce their cuticle. **As a result, it cannot survive more than six days without brood.**

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*Tropilaelaps* leaflet. Version of June 2025

## Means of Spread

*Tropilaelaps* disseminates between colonies through adult honeybees (phoresy) via natural processes such as drifting, robbing, and swarming. Beekeeping practices, such as dividing colonies, or transferring brood frames, also contribute to the spread of the parasite. **The principal and fastest route of long-distance transmission is the movement of infested colonies or packaged bees to new areas.**

## How to Suspect Infestation?


**Clinical signs of *Tropilaelaps* infestation are similar to those of varroosis:**

**Spotty brood pattern** (irregular brood), with dead brood, perforated cappings, and, in case of highly infested colonies, "bald brood" resulting from workers removing the cappings over pupae (d);

**Adult bees or pupae with malformations:** e.g. shrunken abdomen, atrophied wings, deformed or missing legs (d);

**Weak, crawling bees** unable to fly may be observed in front of the hive entrance;

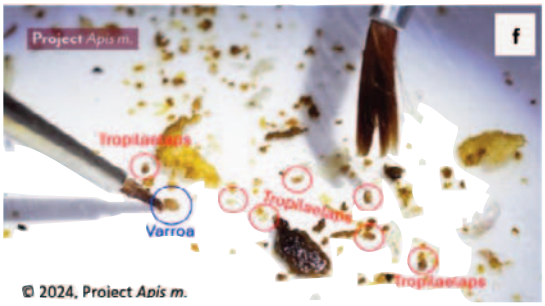
**Small, fast-moving mites on frames, in brood or on adult bees** (e).


## How to Check your Hive?

| *Main detection methods* | *Brief description* |
|---|---|
| **Examining Capped Brood**<br>✓ High sensitivity<br>✗ Time-consuming, induce brood destruction | 1) Open 100-200 capped brood cells, preferably by using fine-nose forceps (instead of honey uncapping fork) to avoid damaging *Tropilaelaps*.<br>2) Remove the brood from each cell.<br>3) Inspect the brood and the inside of the cells for mites. |
| **Examining Hive Debris**<br>✓ High sensitivity<br>✗ Time-consuming | 1) Use sticky boards placed at the bottom of the hive to collect *Tropilaelaps* naturally dropping from the colony. Protect the board with a mesh to prevent the bees from removing the dislodged mites.<br>2) Leave the board in the colony for 24-72 hours.<br>3) Collect and examine the debris for dead mites. |
| **"Bump test"**<br>• Low/Moderate sensitivity<br>✓ Quite fast<br>✗ Induce brood destruction | 1) Select a brood frame containing capped brood.<br>2) Remove all adult bees by shaking the frame over the colony.<br>3) Firmly hit one end of the frame over a white metal pan.<br>4) Rotate the frame and repeat the process three more times.<br>5) Examine the pan for mites. |
| **Examining Adult Bees**<br>• Low/Moderate sensitivity<br>✓ Rapid, non-destructive method (if using icing sugar) | 1) Collect approximately 200–300 bees in a jar<br>2) To dislodge the mites from bees, treat them by the 'icing sugar roll' method. (or eventually wash them in ethanol/soapy water). |

**TIPS:**

- ✓ Use a headlamp and a magnifying glass to spot *Tropilaelaps* among hive debris and other mites that may be present (f).
- ✓ To collect the *Tropilaelaps* mites, use a fine paintbrush wetted in honey or water, or a pair of fine tweezers.

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## What to do in case of suspicion?

**As soon as possible, alert the competent authority, who will implement the adequate measures.**

**All suspect *Tropilaelaps* should immediately be sent** to the national reference laboratory and/or to the competent authority **for identification**:

Please provide as many details as possible (i.e. your name and address, the apiary name and location);
Use a sealed container to collect the mites;
**Do not send live mites in the post.** Kill them first by keeping them in a freezer overnight.

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# WEBINAR "KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR: INVASIVE HORNETS NOW OR NEVER!"

On 11th January 2026, EBA and its Scientific Committee on Bee Health hosted a free online webinar which tackled another major threat to European beekeeping – invasive hornets.

This highly successful webinar, which has been recorded and is now also available on Youtube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=_voH_DjYq9s&t=142s) provided a comprehensive overview of the scale, causes, and consequences and serves as a reminder to tackle this issue before it goes out of control.

The two presenters divided the content, with Prof. Dr. Alexandros Papachristoforou presenting the Oriental hornet and Prof. Dr. Xesús Feás sharing his knowledge on the asian hornet.

Key takehome messages:

## Oriental hornet

Vespa orientalis has a wide distribution area, including some of the warmest places worldwide.

· Recently, it has been expanding its geographic distribution through human-mediated dispersal and favorable climatic conditions)

· V. orientalis is a generalist predator, preying on a wide range of insects, including significant pollinators such as honey bees and solitary bees.

· Its establishment in new areas poses threats to apiculture, biodiversity, and urban environments

· Control measures and strategies aimed at mitigating the impact of V. orientalis predation on honey bee colonies must be a subject of continued research and application

## Asian hornet

Vespa velutina is not only a biodiversity and beekeeping problem — it is also a public health issue.

· More nests = more human interaction = higher probability of severe incidents.

· Galicia has recorded one of the highest mortality rates from Hymenoptera stings worldwide, coinciding with the expansion of this invasive species.

· Reactive plans are not enough — adaptive, science-based planning is essential.

· Early nest detection and rapid removal are critical to reducing expansion and risk.

## Q&A from the webinar

**Have you ever used or tried radio telemetry to locate Vespa orientalis nests?**

AP: No. And I haven't found any relative reference in literature. However, we have tried to attach transmitters like those used in Vespa velutina. The Oriental hornet became very nervous. Instead of returning to the nest, the insect ceased flight activity and was trying continuously to remove the transmitter.

**Is there genetic data on new populations of velutina in the region, to understand whether we have multiple introductions or a single invasive lineage?**

AP: It has been proven in the past that the entire population of Vespa velutina in Europe comes possibly from a single multi-mated hornet queen (Arca et al., 2015, Biological Invasions 17: 2357-2371). It is very possible that the situation remains the same until today.

**I read that central Spain is less affected - is that true, and if so, why? (climate or other factors?)**

XF: Vespa velutina has not yet been detected in central Spain.

**How is reporting and institutional response organized in your countries? Is there a centralized system for locating and destroying nests?**

AP: Nothing in Greece or Cyprus where I work.

**Do you think that we in the Balkans are underestimating Vespa orientalis by focusing more on velutina, while orientalis is already adapted to our climate?**

AP: I strongly believe this. The recent discovery of Oriental hornets' nests in Slovenia is the proof.

**And really the beekeepers are losing they colony from orientalis"**

AP: It has been reported that in areas of Italy, 30% of colony losses were directly related to Vespa orientalis predation. The same percentage has been noted in areas of Attica, Greece during the last year.

**Do you think we can solve the problem by having a product with pheromones of velutin queens to attract males to traps!? or vice versa!?**

XF: Yes, I believe this approach has great potential. The sex pheromones of Vespa velutina queens could be used for monitoring, mass trapping, or mating disruption. The sex pheromones were first described by Wen, Ping et al. (2017), who identified 4-oxo-octanoic acid (4-OOA) and 4-oxo-decanoic acid (4-ODA) as the compounds mediating male attraction. Following these discoveries, we rapidly initiated a pioneering line of research together with Professors Dr. Pilar Vázquez-Tato and Dr. Julio Seijas from the Organic Chemistry department. We first developed a novel synthesis of these pheromones, and then conducted field trials. The results were very promising—although further work is needed to refine their application. Unfortunately, there has been no funding from public administrations to continue this research

**How do native (EU) hornets influence invasive ones? Are native hornets repeling invasive ones?**

AP: From my knowledge and personal experience, it's exactly the opposite. I have observed during the first 10 years of the invasion of Vespa velutina in France, the limitation of Vespa crabro. I have also observed attacks of the asian hornet to the native hornets.

**Being allergic for bee stings ( not handy when holding bees) how likely is it that I'm also allergic for invasive Hornets?**

AP: Only a medical examination can conclude. Please, ask your doctor for allergic reaction tests.

**What is the best way to track Asian hornets for purpose of finding their nests? is it GPS tracking effective and where can we buy it? In Slovenia we have an action plan in case we detect the Asian hornet but we need a protocor for finding nests.**

AP: All trapping methods can provide a level of protection, mainly through limiting the predation pressure. However, the overall impact in an area is rather limited. Finding and destroying the nests is the best way of protection. About GPS, it would be ideal for tracking multiple attacking predators. However, no transponder, so light that a hornet can carry it back to its nest, has been invented yet.

# Knocking on Our Door:
# Invasive Hornets
## Now or Never!

11 February • 6pm CET

Assist, Prof. Dr. Alexandros Papachristoforou

**The Oriental Hornet *Vespa orientalis*: Expansion and Emerging Threats**

This presentation examines the biology, behavior, and ecology of the Oriental hornet (*Vespa orientalis*), with a particular focus on its recent expansion across Europe and the significant threats it poses to apiculture, biodiversity, and public health. *V. orientalis'* distribution range includes some of the warmest regions globally. In recent years, however, its geographic range has expanded further, driven by human-mediated dispersal and increasingly favorable climatic conditions. V. orientalis is a highly adaptable generalist predator, feeding on a wide variety of insects and exerting considerable predation pressure on key pollinators such as honey bees and solitary bees. Its omnivorous feeding habits also make it a threat to agricultural production, as it can damage orchards and vineyards in its search for sugary resources.
This presentation also highlights current control measures and strategies aimed at mitigating the impact of *V. orientalis* predation on honey bee colonies.

Prof. Dr. Xesús Feás

**The Asian Hornet *Vespa velutina*: A "One Health" Challenge for Beekeepers and Beyond**

This presentation will look at the growing threat of the Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*), an invasive species that is changing European ecosystems and creating serious challenges for beekeeping. Based on extensive field research from Galicia, Spain, Prof. Dr. Xesús Feás will explain the hornet's biology, how it spreads, and its real impact on honey bee colonies, including data on predation pressure and how effective current control methods are.
The talk will also highlight the beekeeper's role as an early warning "sentinel" and approach the problem from a One Health perspective, linking hive losses to wider issues such as biodiversity decline, economic damage, and public health risks, including emerging data on sting-related allergies. The presentation will aim to share practical, science-based strategies to help beekeepers, advisors, and health professionals work together through better monitoring, control, and cooperation.

**How can machine vision or embedded AI systems help in the detection of the species and nests?**

AP: For the moment, there is not such an applicable method. However, we hope that such a system will be invented and used in the next few years.

**Is orientalis an invasive hornet ? Is it just spreading his geographical area ?**

AP: In countries where V. orientalis has never been present before, it should be considered as an invasive hornet. However, the EU does not consider the Oriental hornet an invasive species since it is native in few areas of Europe (Cyprus, Greece, Italy).

**Is an epipen effective enough to prevent allergic reaction??**

AP: Like above, this is a medical issue and you have to be advised by a medical doctor.

**Since last year EU decided that Asien Hornets are no longer invasive. There ist something that changes?**

AP: To my knowledge, Vespa velutina is still considered an invasive species in EU.

**What are the Chinese doing with the hornets? Do the Chinese no longer have honeybees?**

AP: The Asian hornet in areas where is native has to confront a large number of predators that are absent in the EU. Furthermore, the local bees have co-evolved with the hornets and have developed effective defensive behaviours. As a result, the pressure of hornets on the local population of honeybees is limited compared to Europe.

By
Assist. Prof. Dr. Alexandros Papachristoforou
Prof. Dr. Xesús Feás
Dr Nik Lupše

# SOLID BEE FEED: SCIENTIFIC BASIS, THERMAL LIMITS, AND REAL RISKS

Artificial feeding is a management tool, not a replacement for honey. However, the way solid feed is prepared directly affects:

• the gut health of the bees,• the lifespan of winter bees,

• colony development, and• unexplained losses often attributed to “bad luck.”In recent years, the use of:

• solid feeds prepared at high temperatures

• “invert” syrups produced under home conditions,

• uncontrolled acidification (vinegar, citric acid, lemon), etc.,has become widespread. These practices require scientific evaluation, not emotional judgment.

## What happens to sugar during heating?

Sugar (sucrose, glucose, fructose) is not thermally inert. Under the influence of temperature, exposure time, and acidity, it degrades to form 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF).

## What is HMF?

HMF is a sugar degradation product that:

• forms during heating and storage,

• increases rapidly in the presence of acids,

• and has been documented as toxic to bees under chronic exposure.

## Thermal limits – what studies show

Laboratory and applied research clearly demonstrate that temperature and exposure time are critical factors:

• Above 50–60 °C, HMF begins to increase gradually in sugar solutions.

• At 70–80 °C, HMF formation accelerates significantly.

• At temperatures ≥ 90 °C, HMF rises very rapidly, especially during prolonged exposure.

• The presence of acids (low pH) lowers the degradation threshold and substantially increases HMF formation.


These effects are documented for both syrups and solid feeds (fondants).

## Biological effects of HMF on bees

Studies indicate that HMF:
- damages the midgut epithelium,
- reduces worker bee lifespan,
- negatively affects winter bees,
- increases colony metabolic stress.

The main risk is not immediate death, but:
- gradual weakening,
- a colony that “stagnates,”
- winter losses without obvious clinical signs.

## Why home acidification is not a solution

Adding vinegar, citric acid, or lemon juice to solid or syrup feed:
- does not guarantee controlled inversion,
- increases thermal degradation,
- alters the physiological pH of the feed,
- enhances HMF formation during heating.

Bees naturally produce invertase enzymes

and are biologically equipped to process sucrose themselves. There is no biological reason to "pre-treat" the feed using uncontrolled methods.

## "Home-made invert" vs. technological reality

Proper inversion is:
• done with specific enzymes,
• under controlled conditions,
• with monitoring of pH, temperature, and HMF.

Keeping sugar at high temperatures for hours:
• is not scientific inversion,
• it is thermal stress with progressive degradation.

Just because bees consume the feed does not mean the feed is optimal.

## How biologically correct solid feed should be

Suitable solid feed for bees should:
• be prepared at the lowest effective temperatures,
• avoid prolonged heat exposure,
• contain no unnecessary strong acids,
• have minimal HMF,
• require as little metabolic effort as possible from the bees.Industrial fondants and controlled solid feeds:
• are analyzed for HMF,
• have consistent composition,
• and are safer for long-term winter feeding.

## Price, market, and the right question

When solid feed:
• is sold much more expensive than sugar,
• without HMF analysis,
• without technological transparency, the legitimate question is: What are we really paying for — nutritional value or marketing?

High-quality bee feed is:
• not secret,

• not magical,
• it is technologically sound and biologically safe.

## Conclusion

• Solid feed must not harm what it is intended to help.
• High heat and uncontrolled acidification are real risks.
• HMF is a documented factor in bee health.
• Respecting bee biology is more important than any recipe.Modern beekeeping does not need improvisation — it requires knowledge.

**Ervis Mema**

## Scientific references


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# HOW TO MARK A QUEEN BEE FOR BETTER VISIBILITY

## A NEW TECHNIQUE

Marking queens is not a compulsory practice, but it is becoming increasingly common in modern beekeeping. Visible and durable marking allows for quicker identification, directly improving productivity in apiary management. This study evaluates a new technique for marking queens using an oil-based marker, which involves marking not only the thorax (as is typically done) but also the wings and abdomen. The durability of the marking was assessed by measuring color retention at the start of the experiment and after five months. Two groups of queens were formed: an experimental group, marked with the new technique on three body parts - Group O (n = 12), and a control group of unmarked queens - Group N (n = 12). The most durable color retention was observed on the thorax (54.4%) and abdomen (14.4%), while retention on the wings was weaker (2.4%), requiring reapplication during the season. Considering the proportion of the total marked area, abdomen marking yielded better results (9.5%) compared to thorax (5.4%) and wing (0.6%) marking. The application of this marking technique showed no negative effects on queen acceptance, survival, or supersedure. Marking three body parts can increase the queen's visibility in a non-invasive way, enhancing work efficiency.

### Introduction

Marking insects, particularly small ones like bees, has always posed challenges. While larger animals, such as vertebrates, can be marked using tattoos, tags, or bands, similar techniques are not suitable for smaller organisms like insects. Some insects are marked using fluorescent dyes, either by adding the dye to food or applying it directly to larvae, which results in the accumulation of pigment in specific tissues (1, 2). Other methods, such as attaching colored wires to the insect's body, have also been used. Early methods of marking included using rare elements (e.g., rubidium, strontium) or even radioactive isotopes, but these have since been abandoned due to various limitations (3, 4, 5).

Interestingly, the practice of marking insects dates back to the 1920s, with the first records of marking animals going back even further, to 218 BCE (6, 7). As technology and understanding of genetics advanced, genetic marking has become

an innovative method. Genetic techniques involve transferring specific genes into mass-produced insects to act as markers, and these have proven stable, even across 15 generations (8, 9). In modern beekeeping, queen marking is one of the standard beekeeping practices. Regular monitoring of bee colonies often involves finding (locating) queens within the colonies. If the queens are unmarked, locating them becomes a time-consuming and laborious task.

## Materials and methods

The experiment was carried out near Belgrade at the apiary of the company "Golden Bee doo, Belgrade, Serbia. The honey bee subspecies Apis mellifera carnica was used in the study (10, 11).

At the beginning of May, 48 queen cells were introduced into four-way mating nucs (Figure 1a) to obtain at least 24 mated queens. Sixteen days later, mating success was evaluated, and 24 successfully mated queens were transferred into production colonies located in an insulated beekeeping trailer (queenless for one day) (Figure 1b). The use of the insulated trailer eliminated variability related to hive material, roof type, and hive position (sun/shade), ensuring uniform internal conditions (temperature, humidity). Since all colonies were placed at a single site, nectar source conditions were identical for all colonies.

*Figure 1. Protocol during the conduct of the experiment ((a) adding queen cells and obtaining mated queens; (b) bringing mating nucs with mated queens and frames in the trailer; (c) experimental marking of queens; (d) beekeeping trailer where the 24 colonies that are in the trial are located; (e) checking for queen acceptance)*

The queens were placed in standardized European Langstroth (LR) hives inside the beekeeping trailer (Figure 1d). Two groups were formed: Group O (12 queens marked on thorax, wings, and abdomen; Figure 1c) and Group N (control group, 12 unmarked queens).

Marking was performed in mid-May, and queens were introduced into queenless colonies on the same day.

One week later, queen acceptance was evaluated in both groups (Figure 1e). Color retention was assessed after five months, at the end of the season (October), during which colonies were used for regular production activities.

Green and white oil-based markers of the same brand were used (uniPaint Marker). In Group O, the thorax was marked with green paint (year color for 2024), while wings and abdomen were marked with white paint to improve visual contrast (Figure 2).

Determination of partial color retention and total colored area - Colored areas were measured at the beginning and after five months. Partial color retention was calculated as the difference in marked surface area for each body part (thorax, wings, abdomen).

Partial retention values (percentages) were multiplied by the surface area of each body part to obtain total colored area.

Color application was performed carefully: wing marking was limited to distal parts, avoiding the wing bases; thorax and abdomen were marked dorsally without contact with the head or antennae.

After application, sufficient drying time was allowed.

Digital measurements were performed using ImageJ v1.54k.

Statistical analysis was performed using a two-tailed t-test ($p < 0.05$). Data analysis was conducted using GraphPad Prism version 9.0.0.

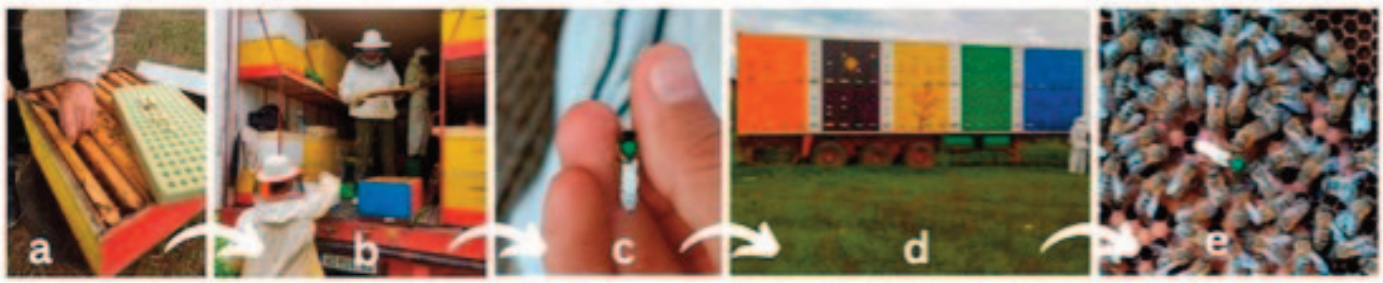
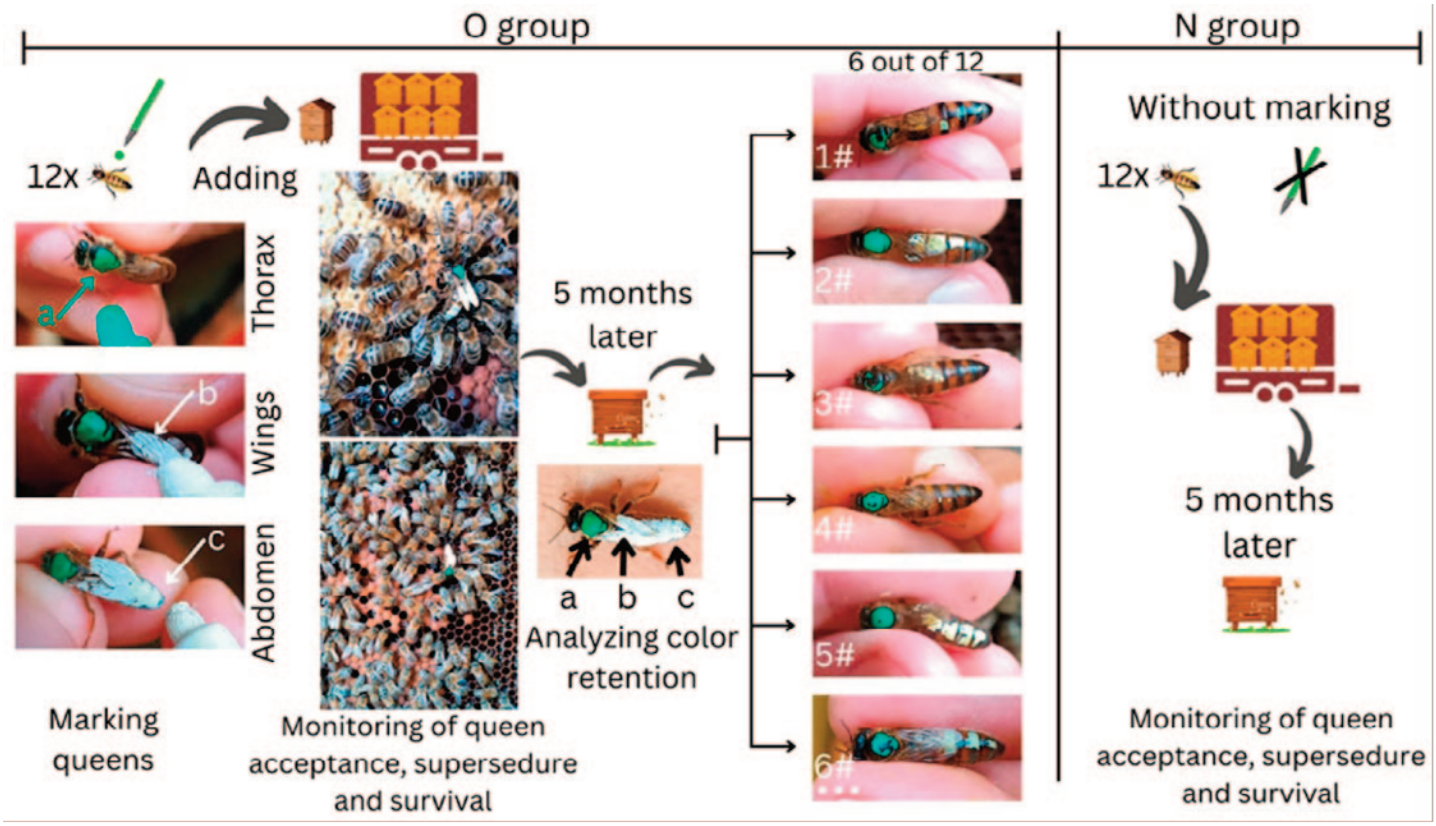


*Figure 2. Experimental design, using the first six queens as examples (a—thorax marking; b—wing marking; c—abdomen marking)*




## Results

The queen acceptance rate was 100% in both groups (∑ = 24), with young open brood in the egg stage observed in all colonies. During the five-month experimental period, all queens remained alive, and colonies showed normal functioning throughout the active beekeeping season. No supersedure cells were detected in either group, indicating the absence of queen dysfunction related to the applied marking technique. After five months, color retention on different body parts was quantified (Figure 3).

A graphical representation of the queens (using the first three queens as examples) during the process of determining the color retention on different body parts is shown in Figure 4.

*Figure 3. Retention of color (%) on the dorsal area of the abdomen, wings, and thorax of queens after a five-month period*

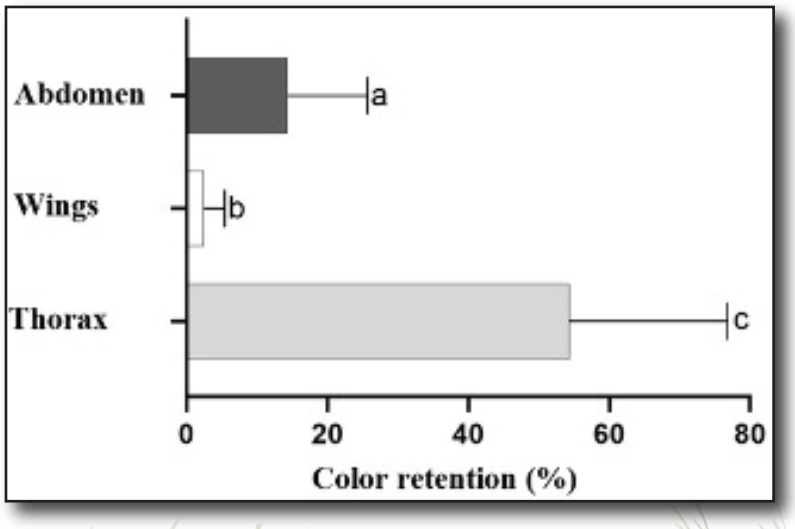
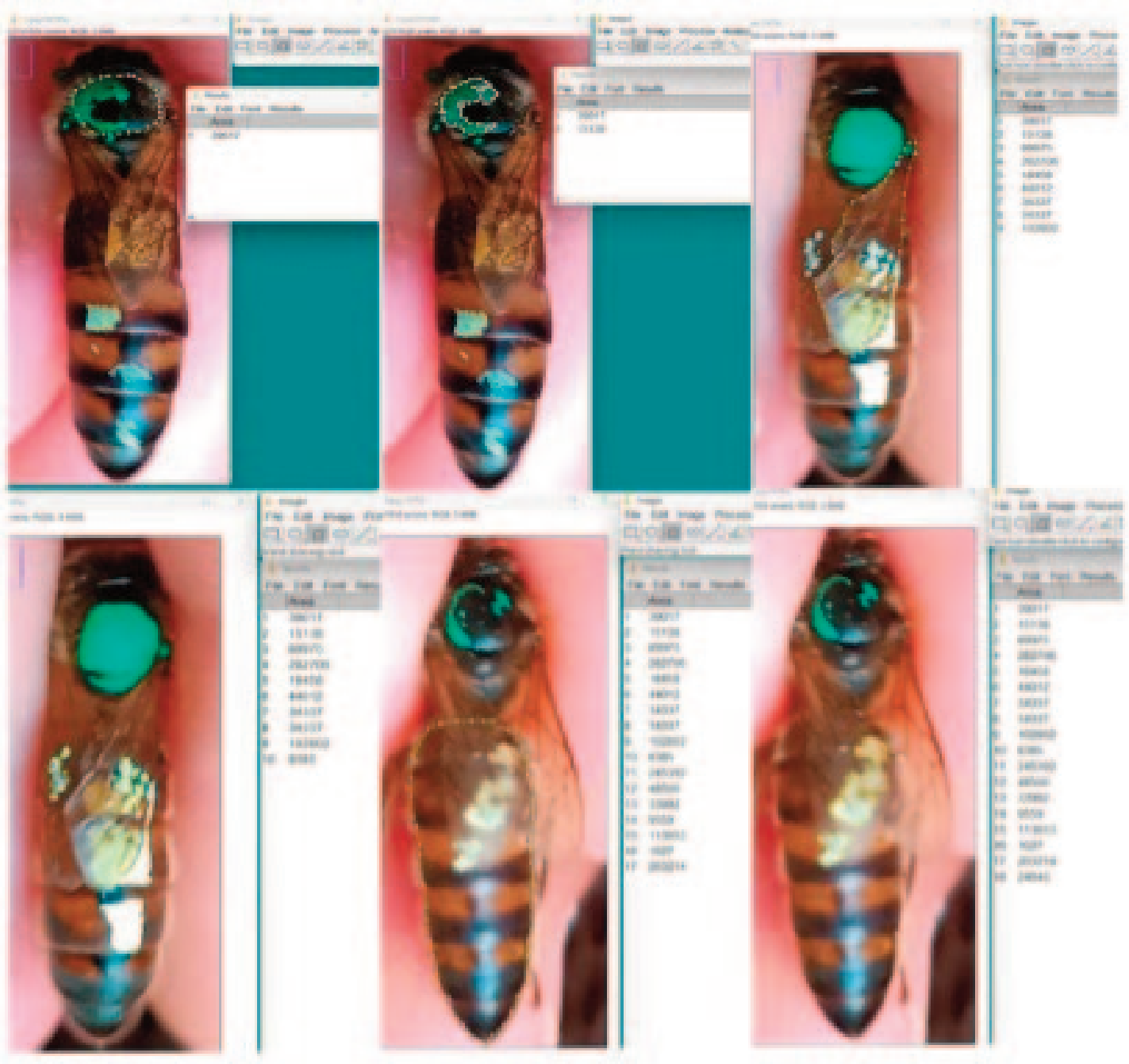


*Figure 4.*
*Digitized representation of the calculation of the color retention of the thorax of queen #1, the wings of queen #2, the abdomen of queen #3 after 5 months*



The average color retention ($\bar{x}$) of the thorax after 5 months was 54.4% (min 24.65%–max 91.57%). Thorax color retention showed higher values compared to wing and abdomen color retention. The average color retention of the wings showed lower values, where some values represented the complete absence of color (0%). The average wing color retention values were 2.4% (min 0%–max 8.16%). The average color retention of the abdomen after 5 months was 14.4% (min 1.13%–max 35.25%).

When the queen bee is marked using the examined technique, its total coloration represents 100%, with the thorax area accounting for 10%, the wing area for 24%, and the abdominal area for 66%. Although the color retention on the abdomen is weaker (compared to the retention on the thorax), the coloration of the abdominal

part is greater than that of the thorax after a period of five months. The best color retention was observed on the thorax (54.4%), but comparing the thorax and the abdomen shows that the abdomen gives better results due to its larger size. This confirms that abdomen marking provides greater visibility (9.5%) compared to thorax marking (5.4%) and wing marking (0.6%), which contributes to easier queen spotting.

## Discussion

The presented marking technique is a completely non-invasive method. In the study, no negative effects of the presented marking method were recorded on the queens themselves (acceptance, supersedure, survival). When the thorax, wings, and abdomen are marked, care must be taken not to mark other body parts. This marking technique should avoid applying paint to the head and the lateral sides of the abdomen, as this may close the queen's spiracles, leading to respiratory tract dysfunction.

Based on the obtained results, we conclude that abdominal marking, in combination with thorax marking, represents an effective method for queen identification. Since the abdomen represents the largest marked surface, its coloration contributes most significantly to the total colored area of the queen. This technique can substantially facilitate and simplify queen detection for both professional beekeepers and hobbyists. Regarding wing marking, the procedure requires repetition during the season due to reduced color retention over the five-month period.

For full text, refer to: Dolasevic, S., Delic, N., Petricevic, M., Keskic, T., Pavlovic, R., Stevanovic, J., & Stanimirovic, Z. (2025). A New Technique for Marking Queen Bees (Apis mellifera) for Better Visibility and Easier Spotting. Agriculture, 15(6), 645.

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**Dr Slobodan Dolašević**
Serbia

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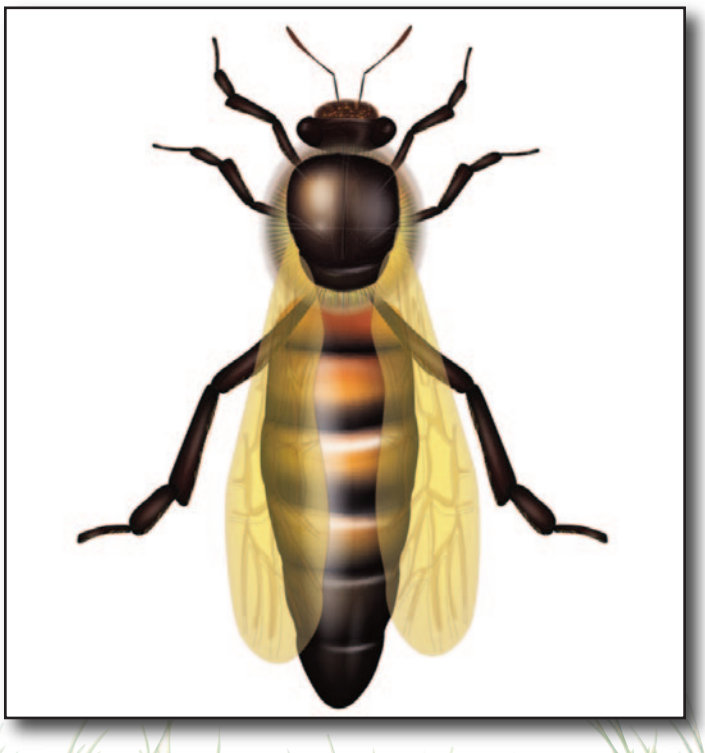


# LET'S CERTIFY APITOURISM ACROSS EUROPE!

## CATEGORISATION OF APITOURISM 1-3 BEES AND "TOP BEE"

Slovenia is the first and currently the only country to carry out certification of apitourism providers. Certificates of excellence ensure control over the range and quality of services and promote competitiveness. The first evaluation took place in 2011, with the first certificates awarded in 2013.

Certification is a very important element in the development of the beekeeping tourism offer, both in terms of quality and competitiveness. On the one hand, apitourism is an opportunity to upgrade existing beekeeping farms, while it also provides young people and anyone who is fascinated by bees with the opportunity to start an independent journey or make some extra money.

The basis for the successful development of apitourism is the cooperation of beekeeping farms, providers of tourism products, tourist associations, local communities and the state, as well as their collaboration in planning, positioning and marketing their offer.

Apitourism in Slovenia is also supported by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Tourism and Internationalisation Directorate, World Trade Organization, Tourism Development Division, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 1. SETTING THE CRITERIA – SCORING

Candidates vying to receive the 1-3 Bees or the Top Bee certificate are expected to show self-initiative and innovation.

The certification assesses the specialisation and focus of the activities of different providers, e.g. farms, museums, shops, and whether they meet the criteria to be certified as a good or excellent apitourism provider.

One, two or three bees indicate and rank the extent to which basic conditions were met, the orderliness of the provider's facilities and surroundings, organic or biodynamic beekeeping, the ability to present activities and products in an attractive fashion, innovative packaging, the ability to create an Api experience, elements of surprise, etc.

This also includes offerings of creative workshops: gingerbread baking, candle making, hive painting, culinary workshops, professional lectures and training, protective clothing for visitors, first aid, animation programme, music, multimedia, photo gallery, massage, chamber where you can smell the aroma of bee products, cosmetics, gift programme, museum, guided tours, honey plant and herb plantations, bee trail, product innovation, and other offers.

The criteria for obtaining the Top Bee category represent an upgraded version of apitourism. This category can be acquired exclusively after completing training to acquire additional knowledge, presenting a unique offering and its application in the actual offer and, consequently, obtaining additional points on the evaluation sheet of apitourism certification.

A candidate for Top Bee certification may proceed to the direct assessment for this category as soon as they have been verified and awarded 3 Bees by the committee and have completed

the required training courses for the acquisition of additional skills (listed below), have satisfied the requirements of points 3 and 4, and have practically equipped their apitourism facilities in accordance with the minimum requirements for the accommodation of guests with disabilities (knowledge acquired in the course of the training course, photographic evidence will suffice as proof of this).

## 2. "TOP BEE" CATEGORY – OBLIGATION OF A UNIQUE OFFERING

To achieve the "Top Bee" category, the apitourism provider must present their own unique (innovative) offering and regularly integrate it into their general offer.

This offer can include souvenir categories, accommodation, offers adapted for people with disabilities and for children, museum collections, bee trails, unique presentations of apitourism to guests, organisation of events, workshops, etc.

The apitourism provider is free to choose what they want to do. The only condition is that this additional product is unique enough.

## 3. COMMITTEE DECIDING ON THE ACQUISITION OF A CATEGORY

The committee of 3-4 evaluators, which verifies the apitourism providers, consists of members from the Section for Beekeeping Tourism of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and other experts or external collaborators, as well as an active beekeeping tourist guide, a member of the Slovenian Professional Guides Association (they must have a broad knowledge of apitourism).

The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association will start certifying beekeeping tourism globally in autumn 2024. The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association has already sent an initiative to Apimondia to authorise Slovenia to do the same.

For any questions regarding the costs of training and certification send an e-mail to barbara.dimc@czs.si or call 0038617296102.

# CZECH BEEKEEPING CLUBS:

# BEEKEEPING SUMMER CAMPS

## Beekeeping throughout the year

Many beekeeping clubs work with children during the entire school year but then there is a two-month summer holiday when they pause their activity. And it is at the exact same time when we need to collect honey, feed our bees and do important varroa treatments. There are a lot of practices we need to teach our children and so little time. Because trying to arrange weekly meetings, while everyone wants to go on vacation, spend time with their friends, etc., is impossible.

Instead there is a different approach we can take to solve this, as the title suggests; beekeeping summer camps.

## Activities for summer camps

We have already talked about the most important things to do in summer. But now we also have time for more unusual activities, which we might not be able to try within our short club meeting window.

Often the favourites are making wax foundations, balms, honey candy, baking honey gingerbread.

## Start your own camp!

This might sound really hard to do, but you don't have to go all in the first year.

You can start only with a few children. Or if they all live close enough it could be a suburban camp and you won't need to worry about accommodation.

Maybe there are already some nature focused camps near you so you could offer to prepare a programme for one day to show them the fascinating world of bees. Maybe someone will want to know more and they will join your (or any other) beekeeping club.

## It means a lot

I got most of my inspiration for this article from the camp LŠMV in Nasavrky, which I personally attended multiple times.

Looking back, I start to understand it gave me much more than I used to realize. Spending a week with beekeepers of the same age allowed us to exchange a lot of knowledge and experience. And our friendships lasted for years so I am grateful for the chance to be part of this and I hope we will see more beekeeping camps in the future.

**Lukáš Loukota**

Young Czech beekeepers, 16 years old

Photos by **Marek Matulík**

Young Czech beekeeper, 24 years old

# KRAKOW: THE WORLD CAPITAL OF MEAD-MAKING

## 2026 EVENT SUMMARY

In February 2026, the Galaxy Hotel in Krakow became the global epicenter of mead-making for three days. Held from February 19–21, the seventh edition of the European Mead Makers Conference, alongside the prestigious Mead Madness Cup and Honey Madness Cup competitions, brought together enthusiasts and producers from across the globe. The event achieved a distinguished status thanks to the Honorary Patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, highlighting its importance in promoting Polish agriculture and traditional products on the international stage.


### Record-Breaking Professionalism at the Mead Madness Cup

The eighth edition of the Mead Madness Cup solidified its position as the largest event in the industry. A total of 777 meads from 35 countries were evaluated. Despite the introduction of entry limits (a maximum of 15 samples per mead maker), the professional (PRO) category saw a 3% increase compared to the previous year.

- **Grand Champion HOME**: Robert Kurko for his mead "Bochet Dwójniak Wiśniowy."
- **Grand Champion PRO**: The debuting Japanese meadery, ANTELOPE Meadery, for their session mead "Aurea 13."
- **Polish Mead Maker Champion**: This prestigious title was won by Paweł Knap, confirming the highest level of domestic craftsmanship.

"Every year, the quality of the competition meads reaches new heights, which is incredibly rewarding. It was a bit of a surprise to see a debuting meadery from Japan take the top title, and even more surprising that it was a session mead—meaning it was very low in alcohol," emphasizes Krzysztof Jarek, Director of the competition.

## Honey Madness Cup – International Collaboration

The third edition of the honey competition showed dynamic growth, with a 13% year-on-year increase (152 honeys). This success was built on collaboration with key organizations such as the Polish Beekeepers Association (PZP), Lithuanian Beekeepers Association, European Beekeepers Association (EBA), and the Albo Nazionale degli Esperti in Analisi Sensoriale del Miele. Through a partnership with the HoneyLab laboratory, every winning sample underwent a detailed pollen analysis to fully verify its authenticity and botanical origin.

## Knowledge, Integration, and a Family Atmosphere

The conference gathered 214 participants from 31 countries, including visitors from distant locations like the USA, Japan, Venezuela, and the United Arab Emirates. The program featured 12 expert lectures and various panel discussions.

"Our event constantly attracts new participants, and new countries keep appearing on our map. For us, the best feedback is the fact that so many guests return every year—even from places as far away as the USA, Korea, or Japan. Besides the knowledge gained, our guests immensely value the friendly, family-like atmosphere throughout the event," notes Mateusz Błaszczyk, one of the event organizers.

## Why Join Us in 2027?

The success of this year's edition is just the beginning. The organizers are already planning the next installment for February 2027 in Krakow. Why should you save the date?

- Global Networking: This is the only place where you can talk shop with mead masters from three continents, exchange recipes, and forge business relationships that last for years.
- Top-Tier Education: We are preparing an even broader panel of lectures led by world-renowned experts. Whether you are taking your first steps at home or running a professional meadery, our conference provides the latest insights into technology and market trends.
- Prestige and Growth: Winning a medal at the Mead Madness Cup is not just a prestigious title; it provides real marketing support. For honey producers, it is a unique opportunity to obtain a certified pollen analysis.
- Support from Industry Leaders: With exhibitors such as Łysoń, Fermentis, Lemag, and Euro-Win, you can personally test the latest equipment and raw materials.

Join the community of enthusiasts shaping the future of one of the world's oldest craft traditions.

**The organizers invite you to the next edition. See you in Krakow in 2027!**

# INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone supporting activities for young beekeepers. I firmly believe that this investment is of paramount importance. It is the younger generation that will help us navigate future challenges, ensuring the continuity of our craft and the protection of honey bees.

Numerous countries, organizations, and mentors have already recognized this necessity, dedicating significant time and resources to youth development. Exemplary models can be found in Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Scotland, and Malta. These nations have secured a bright future for their beekeeping traditions. However, in many other regions, talented young people and dedicated mentors still require greater support from national association presidents and representatives to reach their full potential.

## 2025: A Year of Growth and Global Recognition

In our most active member countries, national associations have established systematic training through various channels. The most successful model remains the Beekeeping Club, where youth meet weekly for hands-on experience. Beyond these regular meetings, 2025 saw a surge in seminars, workshops, summer camps, and international exchange programs.

A historic milestone was reached at the Apimondia Congress in Copenhagen (September 23–27, 2025). For the first time in its history, the Congress dedicated a specific part of its program to young beekeepers. Members of the EBA Youth Commission—Meral Kekeçoğlu, Kristina Dolinar Paulič, Slobodan Dolasevic, and myself—were in attendance.

In a collaborative effort between Apimondia, the Beekeeping Foundation (UAE), and the International Centre for Young Beekeepers (ICYB), we hosted a two-hour workshop. The highlights were the presentations by six young beekeepers, most of whom are alumni of the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers (IMYB). They made history as the youngest performers ever to take the stage at an Apimondia Congress.

# 2026: Strengthening the Network

In the coming year, our primary goal is to build upon the momentum of 2025 and expand these activities to regions where they do not yet exist. To achieve this, we propose two strategic steps:

1. National Youth Committees: We encourage every national beekeeping association to establish a dedicated committee for youth work.

2. National Representatives: Each country should appoint a single representative to act as a liaison between their national committee and the EBA.

Furthermore, we aim to facilitate deeper cooperation between specialized beekeeping schools and universities, bridging the gap between academic research and practical youth education.

Looking Ahead: Belfast 2026 and Dubai 2027

Just as professionals gather at Apimondia, the youth community unites annually at the IMYB. The 2026 meeting will be held in Belfast this July, organized by the Ulster Beekeepers Association (led by Susie Hill and Valentine Hodges). We anticipate a record-breaking year with the highest number of participating countries, mentors, and young facilitators (aged 18–26) in the event's history. It would of course be great if all European countries that are part of the EBA participated in this meeting (https://imyb-ni26.com/).

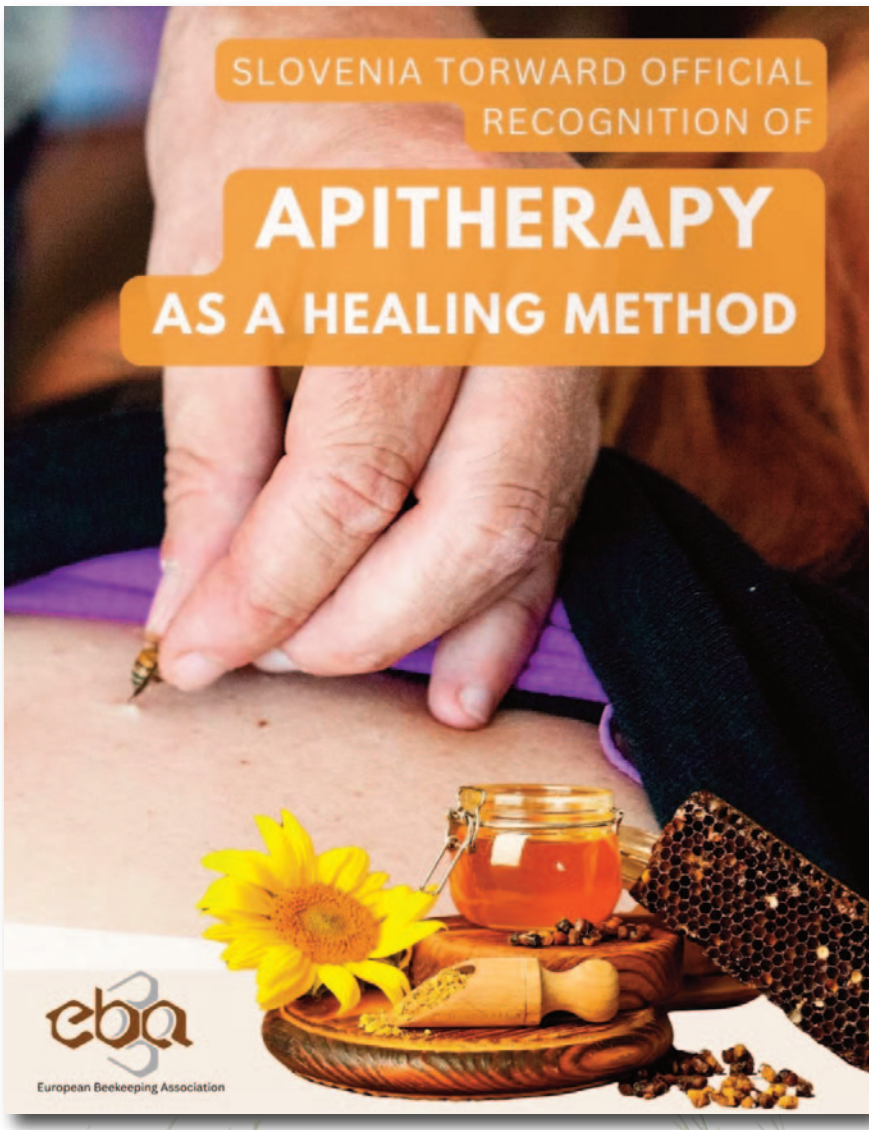
Preparations for 2027 must also begin immediately. We aim to finalize the selection process for the host of the 15th Jubilee IMYB 2027 by March 2026. Additionally, the 50th Apimondia Congress will take place in Dubai in 2027. Under the leadership of President Zahira Nedjraoui and the Beekeeping Foundation, we are confident that young beekeepers will be granted even greater prominence on the global stage.

The future of beekeeping is in the hands of our youth. Let us continue to give them the tools, the knowledge, and the community they need to thrive.

RNDr. **Jiří Píza**, president of the EBA Scientific Committee for Young Beekeepers

# SLOVENIA TAKING A STEP TOWARD OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF APITHERAPY

The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association (Čebelarska zveza Slovenije – ČZS) has officially begun the process to have apitherapy recognized as an official healing method.Apitherapy is rooted in the wisdom of generations in Slovenia as well as worldwide — in the deep, traditional knowledge of the healing properties from the hive. For centuries, beekeepers and communities have understood and respected the therapeutic potential of honey, propolis, royal jelly, pollen, beeswax, and bee venom. This accumulated experience, passed down from generation to generation, represents a valuable natural heritage that bridges tradition and modern healthcare.For more than a year, ČZS has been actively working to achieve formal recognition of apitherapy as a healing method. After significant effort, dialogue, and professional advocacy, they have successfully convinced the relevant authorities, and the Ministry of Health has now initiated the first steps toward realizing this important initiative.May this serve as encouragement for others working toward the formal acknowledgment of apitherapy worldwide. Do you have an experience from your country? We would love to hear it!



# HONORARY PLAQUE
## FOR BEEKEEPERS

At the 17th National Beekeeping Fair in Belgrade, where I had the honor of participating as an invited speaker, I presented an honorary plaque to unknown beekeepers in recognition of their selfless dedication and invaluable contribution to the preservation of bees.

Through this symbolic act, I wished to express my deepest gratitude to all those quiet and devoted individuals whose work often remains unseen, yet whose efforts are essential for the survival of bees and the preservation of life itself.

The plaque was awarded with the following justification:


Beekeepers struggle to survive in increasingly hostile conditions.

-Their bees are poisoned by pesticides that are used more and more extensively in the environment. Yet beekeepers replace their colonies and compensate for these losses at their own expense.

-They produce honey under extremely difficult circumstances, as climate change reduces nectar flow and diminishes pollen quality.

-The cost of honey production continues to rise, while imported honey is often sold at prices several times lower.

-Unfair competition and well-organized fraud are steadily undermining their efforts to produce and sell genuine, high-quality honey.

-Beekeepers are the unsung heroes of nature, heroes who too often remain unrecognized and unrewarded.

We acknowledge the essential role of bees in the ecosystem. Bees are among the most beneficial insects on our planet; without them, humanity itself would face an uncertain future.

Yet while we speak of saving bees, we too often overlook the beekeepers. Without them, managed honeybee populations would not survive. Like many other insects, they would decline, perhaps even more rapidly, due to their close interaction with crops exposed to pesticides.

Our slogan “Save the Bees” should evolve into “Save the Beekeepers Who Save the Bees.”

Without beekeepers, no one would protect them from agrochemicals, wildfires, floods, urbanization, intensive farming, climate change, and the devastating impact of human activity on the ecosystem.

We recognize the contributions of scientists who study and document bee losses. Yet we

often ignore the beekeepers who restore colonies, absorb the losses, and keep the bees alive.

The contribution of beekeepers remains largely unrewarded. Their dedication deserves recognition and respect.

On behalf of all who recognize and appreciate the invaluable contribution of beekeepers, we present this honorary plaque to you. We see your struggle. We support you. We thank you.

**This plaque reads:**

To the Beekeepers of the World

To the unnamed beekeepers standing between nature and human neglect.

Through your persistence, the honeybee survives,pollinators endure, and hope remains.

This plaque honors not one, but all of you — guardians of life, working quietly for the future.

*Belgrade Fair, 7–8 February 2026*

**Andreas Thrasyvoulou**
Professor of Emeritus,
Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FOOD

ČZS
SLOVENIAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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1923 2023

# APITHERAPY DAY

## International symposium 2026

Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences,
Pivola 10, 2311 Hoče, Slovenia

Saturday, March 28, 2026

PROGRAM:
9.00–9.15 | Official Opening and Welcome Address

**Medicine and biochemistry**

09:15 – 10:00 | ***Stanko Buha (BA)***: Bee venom therapy for multiple sclerosis, 45 min
10:00 – 10:45 | ***Thomas Gloger (GER)***: Placement of the finding of spermidine in drone milk – what should we expect? 45 min
10:45 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

**Wellness and mental health**

11:15 – 12:00 | ***Adam & Lacey Ingrao (USA)***: Therapeutic Beekeeping and Mental Health, 45 min
12:00 – 12:35 | ***Yankı Tandırcıoğlu (TR)***: The Effect of ApiHouse Experience on Human Anxiety Levels, 35 min- - ONLINE
12:35 – 13:10 | ***Monishankar Singha* (SLO)**: Bee Humming as a Natural Source for Meditation in Apitherapy, 30 min
13:05 – 13:40 | Break

**Global trends and wider use**

13:40 – 14.10 | ***Kristina Dolinar Paulič (SLO)***: Apitherapy in Various Animal Species, 30 min
14:10 – 14:40 |***Nika Pengal (SLO)***: Apitherapy in China: Key Insights from the International Symposium, 30 min

WELCOME!

*lectures will be in Slovenian language

Professional conference

# APISLOVENIJA 2026

Saturday and Sunday
**14. and 15. march 2026**

**Location:**

Celjski sejem d.d.
Dečkova ulica 1, **Celje**

## Program

### SATURDAY

- 10.00 -10.30
  **OPENING SESSION**
- 10.30 – 11.15
  **Issues related to invasive hornets in Slovenia**
  Simon Golob
- 11.15 - 12.00
  **Experiences in combating invasive hornet species ***
  prof. dr. Alexandros Papachristoforou
- 12.00 – 12.45
  **Modern methods of Varroa control in Germany ***
  dr. Michael Hardt
- 12.45 - 13.00
  **Preparations for the World Beekeeping Congress Apimondia 2027 in Dubai***
  Zahira Nedjraoui

The lecture will be held in English

### SUNDAY

- 10.00 -10.45
  **From winter dormancy to the first honey harves**
  Jure Justinek
- 10.45 – 11.30
  **Organic beekeeping – the foundation for successful apitherapy**
  Jože Cemič
- 11.30 - 12.15
  **Determination of honey types – a challenge for beekeepers**
  Boris Potočnik
- 12.30
  **Announcement of award winners for the best technological solution in beekeeping, best photo, best article, etc.**

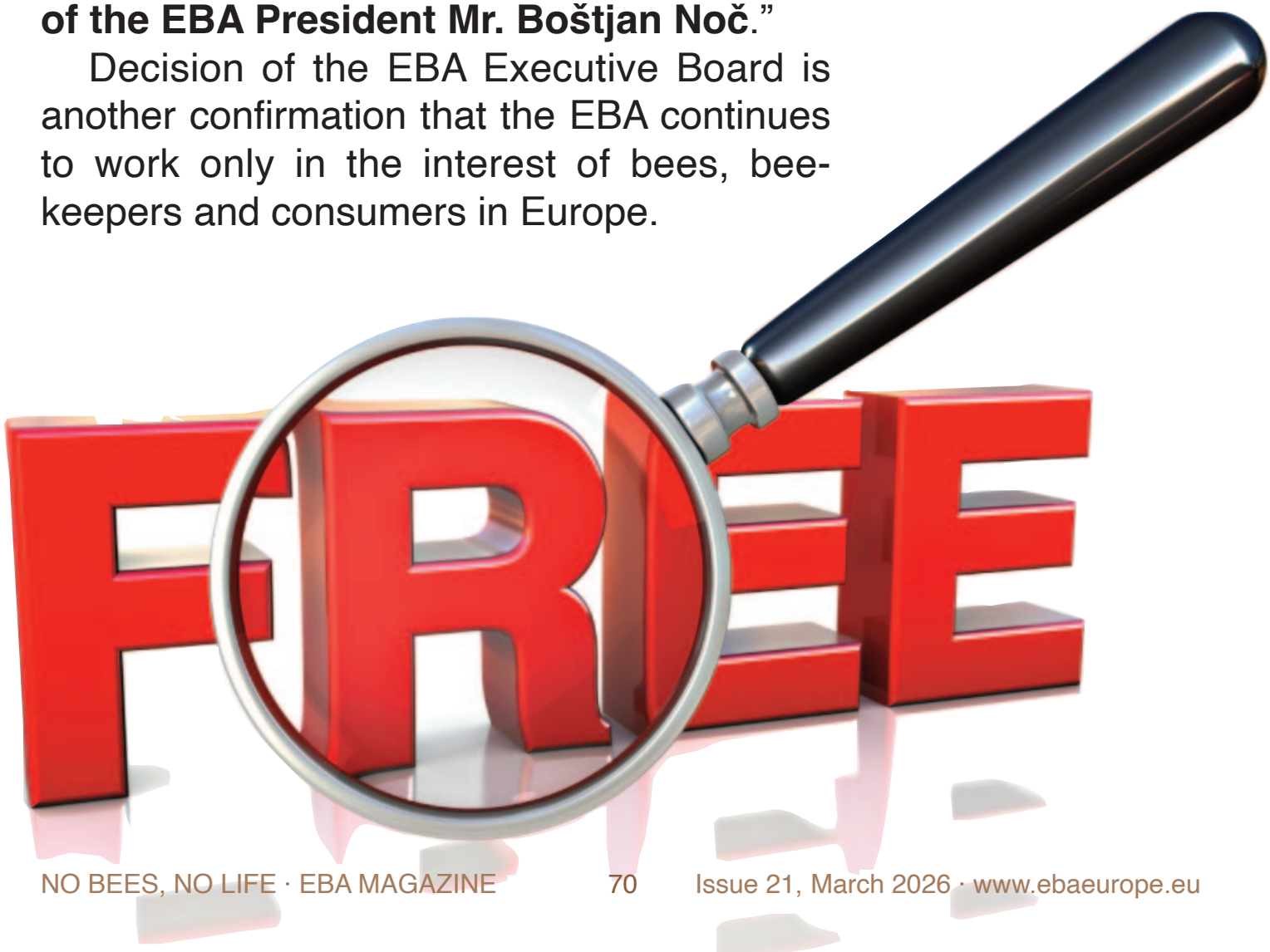
**You are kindly invited**

The event is financially supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

# TO THE EBA WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP FEE

At the meeting of the EBA Executive Board, on the proposal of the EBA President Mr. Boštjan Noč, an important decision was made regarding membership in the EBA in the upcoming period: "**Membership in the EBA is free for the duration of the mandate of the EBA President Mr. Boštjan Noč**."

Decision of the EBA Executive Board is another confirmation that the EBA continues to work only in the interest of bees, bee-keepers and consumers in Europe.



# SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

## AND METHOD OF ADVERTISING IN THE MAGAZINE

On behalf of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA),I am writing to seek your support in the form of sponsorship to help ensure the smooth and effective operation of our Association.

The EBA is dedicated to promoting and supporting beekeeping across Europe. The Association was founded out of necessity, as bees and beekeepers are essential for our ecosystem and society. Without beekeepers there are no bees, and whithout bees there is no pollination, leading to a lack of food on planet Earth.

EBA works for bees, beekeepers and consumers.

Our mission is to:

1. Fight against counterfeit honey that flooded the European market;
2. Introduction of incentives per beehive as agro-ecological programme;
3. Fight against the improper use of chemicals that are harmful to bees;

In return for your generous support, we offer various sponsorship benefits. We believe that this partnership would be mutually beneficial and would significantly contribute to the advancement of the european beekeeping sector.

### ADVERTISING IN THE MAGAZINE:

1. Through sponsorship packages;
2. It is possible to pay for an ad only for 1/4 page (100 euros), for a larger area by agreement. The entire page cannot be obtained, it belongs only to the General Sponsor.

IT CONTINUES

# EBA
# sponsorship packages

## GOLD sponsor - 5.000 euros:
Advertisement on the EBA website
Presentation at all EBA events, logo on all EBA correspondence
12 advertisements in the EBA monthly e-magazine in A4 page size

## SILVER sponsor - 3.000 euros:
Advertisement on the EBA website
Presentation at all EBA events, logo on all EBA correspondence
12 advertisements in the EBA monthly e-magazine in half A4 page size

## BRONZE sponsor - 2.000 euros:
Advertisement on the EBA website
12 advertisements in the EBA monthly e-magazine in the size of 1/4 A4 page

## EBA SUPPORTER - 1.000 euros:
Advertisement on the EBA website
12 advertisements in the EBA monthly e-magazine in the size of 1/8 A4 page

These are basic packages, but we are open to different forms of cooperation, which we agree on individually. We would be delighted to discuss this opportunity further and explore how we can align our goals with your organization's values.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together.

Yours sincerely,

**Boštjan Noč**
President of the European Beekeeping Association

# EBA informative and professional monthly magazine "NO BEES, NO LIFE"

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