

**Question for written answer E-000760/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Adulteration of honey, low-cost imports and the impact of the EU-Mercosur agreement

European beekeeping is facing an acute crisis due increased imports of cheap honey from non-EU countries, widespread adulteration and the lack of effective authenticity checks. Large quantities of imported honey are placed on the single market at prices that are often well below the cost of production in the EU, creating an unlevel playing field and severe market disruption.

European beekeepers are required to adhere to strict standards on food safety, traceability, environmental protection and bee health, entailing high compliance costs. However, imported products do not appear to be subject to equivalent and systematic checks, and recent checks on samples have highlighted high rates of misleading labelling, undermining consumer trust.

In view of the EU-Mercosur agreement, there are growing concerns about a further increase in imports without adequate safeguard clauses or assured equivalence of production and control standards.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to set up and fund an EU reference laboratory for honey with harmonised authentication methods?
2. What specific measures will it take to strengthen border and intra-EU checks and to ensure quality equivalence between EU and imported honey?
3. Has it carried out a specific impact assessment for the apiculture sector in the context of the EU-Mercosur agreement?

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