

**Question for written answer E-004017/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Elena Yoncheva (ECR)

Subject: Public identification of final honey packing establishments

Honey labels identify the responsible food business operator, who may be a retailer or brand owner, while lot codes need not publicly identify the actual final packing establishment. A separate lot indication may also be omitted under Article 5 of Directive 2011/91/EU¹. Article 4a(1)(e) of Directive 2001/110/EC² provides for Union-wide honey traceability requirements. The related feasibility work must assess digital solutions, including, where appropriate, a unique identifier.

1. What is the timetable and current scope of this feasibility work, and will it assess a human-readable identifier of the actual packing site linked to a free public establishment register?
2. Does the Commission consider that the existing delegation permits mandatory public identification on retail packs and publication of establishment data, including safeguards for natural persons; if not, will it propose the necessary amendment to the basic legislation?
3. How will it ensure unambiguous links between retail packs, batches and packing sites, including private labels, contract packing, imported retail packs and date-based lot exemptions, while reusing existing registers and minimising the burden on small beekeepers?

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¹ Directive 2011/91/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs (OJ L 334, 16.12.2011, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/91/oj>).

² Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey (OJ L 10, 12.1.2002, p. 47, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/110/oj>).