

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000840/26  
to the Commission  
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)  
(28 February 2026)**

*Subject:* Tackling the misrepresentation of products as Greek and strengthening local honey production

In accordance with the applicable EU legislation on honey, in particular Directive 2001/110/EC, as recently amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1438, and in the context of official controls under Regulation (EU) 2017/625, in conjunction with the general principles of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 on food safety and traceability, the Union has strengthened its traceability and market control tools.

However, there are increasing reports of imports of honey of dubious authenticity from non-EU countries, as well as of instances of the ‘Greekification’ of products that are either not of Greek origin or do not even meet the definition of honey. It appears that, in particular in some Member States, controls are lax, leading to easy access to the European market.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission systematically monitor honey imports to Greece and the EU in terms of authenticity, composition and correct labelling, and are there any recent findings from coordinated controls or from the EU agri-food fraud network?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose further measures to tackle illegal ‘Greekification’, such as stricter mandatory labelling of the country of origin per batch or strengthening laboratory methods for detecting adulteration?
3. In the context of the ‘farm to fork’ strategy, how does the Commission intend practically to strengthen short supply chains and boost the consumption of local honey, in order to support local beekeepers and restore consumer confidence?

Submitted: 28.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission  
(17 April 2026)**

1. The Commission monitors the official controls performed on honey imported into the EU to verify compliance with the EU food safety legislation in general, and with Directive 2001/110/EC <sup>(1)</sup> in particular.

Every consignment of honey is subject to official controls at the border control post of first arrival, including documentary and identity checks at a frequency of 100%, as well as physical checks on 15% of consignments <sup>(2)</sup>.

During 2025, two coordinated measures of intensified official controls were launched at EU level <sup>(3)</sup>, with 22 consignments controlled under these measures, none of them related to Greece.

2. Directive (EU) 2024/1438 <sup>(4)</sup> introduced mandatory origin labelling for honey blends and new provisions on traceability and authenticity. From June 2026, the countries of origin will have to be labelled for blends, including the percentage share represented by each country.

By June 2029, the Commission will adopt delegated acts laying down methods and criteria to determine the place where honey has been harvested and EU-wide traceability requirements <sup>(5)</sup>. The Commission is also working to reinforce the capacity to detect honey adulterated with sugar syrups thanks to a project, running until end of 2026, that aims to harmonise analysis methods. The Commission has until June 2028 to adopt implementing acts laying down methods of analysis to detect adulterated honey <sup>(6)</sup>.

3. The Commission supports efforts to strengthen short supply chains and promote the consumption of local honey through the Common Agricultural Policy, which provides funding for advisory services, technical assistance, investments and actions aimed at supporting local beekeepers to improve production and quality of honey and enhance consumer confidence in local products.

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<sup>(1)</sup> ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2001/110/oj>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Pursuant to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2129.

<sup>(3)</sup> Pursuant to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1873.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32024L1438>.

<sup>(5)</sup> Pursuant to Article 4a (1), point (e) of Directive 2001/110/EC, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1438.

<sup>(6)</sup> Pursuant to Article 4, second paragraph of Directive 2001/110/EC, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1438.