



Honey Directive

within the review of Breakfast Directives

Commission proposal amending Council Directives
2001/110/EC; 2001/112/EC; 2001/113/EC; 2001/114/EC

CDG Animal Production 22 November 2023

Dir. 2001/110/EC – honey – COM proposal

Origin labelling:

- listing **all countries of origin** in honey blends,
- **Except for small packs** below 25 g,
- To **improve consumer information**
- In a **proportionate and controllable** way

Transposition, application, exhaustion of stocks:

- MS will have **18 months** after entry into force of the Directives
- Provisions shall **apply 24 month** after entry into force of the Directives
- Products may continue to be marketed **until exhaustion of stocks**

Breakfast Directives: legislative procedure

Council

- **6 Working Parties** on Agricultural Products on 16 & 26 May, 1 & 12 June, 7 July, 14 September
- **3 SCA** (Special Committee for Agriculture) on 8 May, 19 June & 14 November (gave a **mandate** to the Council Presidency **for trilogues**)

European Parliament

- Opinion from **ComAGRI**: discussion on 18 September, amendments by 21 September (**262 AM** in total), **vote on 16 November** (unanimous)
- **Lead**: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (**ComENVI**) : discussion on 20 September, amendments by 27 September (**318 AM** in total), vote on **29 November**

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

5 main areas:

- Origin labelling
- Analysis methods
- Product names
- Traceability
- Transposition, application

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

Country of origin labelling:

- The country of origin, where the honey has been harvested, shall be indicated on the label and **on the front** of the package, **close to the commercial name** of the product. If the honey originates in more than one country, the **full names** of the countries of origin where the honey has been harvested shall be indicated on the front label of packages containing **more than 25 g, in descending order** and with their **respective percentage** in the blend, with a **tolerance margin of 5 percent**;
- For packs containing **25 g or less** of honey, the names of the country of origin shall be indicated on the label using the **ISO 3166 alpha-2 country code**, in descending order and with their respective percentage in the blend, with a tolerance margin of 5 percent.

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

Analysis methods:

- The **Commission** is **empowered** to adopt **methods for verifying compliance** of honey with the provisions of Council Directive 2001/110/EC and of this Directive, including the implementation of **blockchain-type traceability** incorporating a minimum of criteria (criteria set out in Annex 3). Those methods shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2) of Council Directive 2001/110/EC and **updated regularly**. Until the adoption of such methods, **Member States** shall, whenever possible, use **internationally recognised validated methods** of analysis such as those approved by the Codex Alimentarius to verify compliance with the provisions of this Directive.

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

Product names:

- Banning the possibility for “**filtered honey**” to be labelled as “honey”;
- Renaming “filtered honey” and “baker’s honey” as “**industrial honey**”;
- Introducing the terms “**raw or unheated honey**” when no heat treatment has degraded highly sensitive enzymes and **adding composition criteria** in Annex II;
- Excluding “**vacuum evaporation**”;
- Replacing the non-removal of pollen (or any other honey constituent, except if unavoidable) by an **absence of “significant change in the pollen count or pollen spectrum of pollen smaller than 100 µm”** and “no constituents of honey smaller than 100 µm may be removed.

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

Traceability:

- A traceability system for honey shall be set up, **complementing** the horizontal rules already applicable to the agri-food sector in Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- For honeys produced in the Union and imported into the Union from third countries, each honey marketed under an identification other than that of the harvesting beekeeper must have an **identifier linked to a block-chain traceability system enabling the competent authorities to trace the entire history of the honey back to the harvesting beekeepers or operators** in the case of imported honeys. Any **personal data** that may be included in the traceability system shall only be **accessible to consumers with the prior consent** of the producers of the batch or batches concerned.
- The **Member States**, in close collaboration and under the guidance of the Commission, shall set up a **database of beekeepers and operators blending and/or importing** honey.
- An **EU reference centre** for honey shall be established to improve controls and traceability and to **detect fraud** in honey through systematic testing of imported and mixed honey, using the latest test methods to prove the authenticity and quality of honey;
- The Commission is empowered to adopt by ... [**12 months** after the entry into force of this Directive] an **implementing act** setting out technical details of the harmonised traceability system.

EP ComAGRI opinion (vote on 16/11/2023)

Transposition, application:

- **Quicker transposition** by MS: **12 months** (instead of 18);
- **Quicker application** for operators: **12 months** (instead of 24 for the other breakfast directives);
- Honey products labelled before **12 months** (instead of 24 for the other breakfast directives) after entry into force can continue to be marketed until stock exhaustion.



Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide **xx: element concerned**, source: **e.g. Fotolia.com**; Slide **xx: element concerned**, source: **e.g. iStock.com**