

# **Presentation on the different definitions and status of hive products**

Civil Dialogue Group “Animal Products – Beekeeping”

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# Apiculture products

## Single CMO

### Annex I, Part XXII - Apiculture products

The apiculture sector shall cover the products listed in the following table:

- Natural honey
- Royal jelly and propolis, edible
- Royal jelly and propolis, non-edible
- Pollen
- Beeswax

→ Bee venom, male larvae and queen larvae ????

# Apiculture products

## Single CMO

### Annex II, Part IX - Definitions concerning the apiculture sector

1. Honey shall be understood as honey within the meaning of Council Directive 2001/110 including as regards to the main types of honey.
2. "Apiculture products" means honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis or pollen.

→ No definition for hive products

# Honey

- **Definition:**  
Council Directive 2001/110 of 20 December 2001 relating to honey
- **Status :**  
Food product at EU level

# Royal jelly

## Definition proposed :

Natural substance secreted by the hypopharyngeal and mandibular glands of nurse bees (*Apis mellifera*). Mainly used to feed larvae and queens, it is a fresh, natural and unprocessed product. It may be filtered (without ultrafiltration), although no substance is added.

NB: Bearing in mind that in this context, all of production has to be taken into account, a specific definition is needed within the legislation on quality for the feeding processes of bees.

# Royal jelly

**At MS level**

**No official definition in DE, FR, ES, IT, SK, FI**

**National regulation : IT**

**ISO standard**

# Royal jelly

## Status:

Germany : Food supplement or Medicine (depending on the dose) – possibility to become a food additive

Italy : Food supplement

Slovakia: Food supplement

Finland : Food product (food ingredient of animal origin) or food supplement depending on the decision of the manufacturer

Belgium : Food product or food supplement depending on the existence or not of a posology

# Pollen pellets

## **Definition proposed:**

Accumulated pollen grains harvested by worker bees of the species *Apis mellifera*, which is compacted on their hind legs with the help of honey and/or nectar and bees' secretion. The protein source for the colony, the product is natural, free from additives and harvested at the entrance to the hive.

**At MS level :**

**No official definition in DE, FR, ES, IT, SK, FI**

**National regulation : IT**

# Pollen pellets

## Status :

Germany : Food supplement

Slovakia : Food supplement

Finland : Food product (food ingredient of animal origin) or food supplement depending on the decision of the manufacturer

Belgium : Food product or food supplement depending on the existence or not of a posology

# Bee pollen or bee bread

## **Definition proposed:**

Pollen pellets packed into honeycomb cells by bees and which undergo natural processing leading to the presence of enzymes and commensal microbiota. It is used by nurse bees to feed the brood. It may not contain any additives except wax from the honeycomb cells.

**At MS level :**

**No official definition in DE, FR, ES, IT, SK, FI**

**National regulation : IT**

# Bee pollen or bee bread

## Status :

Germany : Food supplement

Finland : Food product (food ingredient of animal origin) or food supplement depending on the decision of the manufacturer

Belgium : Food product or food supplement depending on the existence or not of a posology

# Beeswax

## **Definition proposed:**

Substance constituted solely from secretion of the wax glands of worker bees of the species *Apis mellifera* and used in the construction of honeycombs.

**At MS level :**

**EU legislation on food additive**

**+ European pharmacopoeia**

# Beeswax

## Status :

Germany : Food additive E901

Italy : Food additive E901

Slovakia : *Technical use*

Finland : Food additive (E901) of animal origin / Other:  
Cosmetic ingredient in line with the International  
Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients (“*Cera alba*”  
definition)

# Propolis

## Definition proposed :

Resin of exclusively natural and plant origin, harvested by worker bees of the species *Apis mellifera* from certain plant sources, to which their own secretion is added (primarily wax and salivary secretion) in order to be used as protection for the hive.

**At MS level :**

**No official definition in DE, FR, ES, IT, SK, FI**

**National regulation : IT**

# Propolis

## Status :

Germany : Food supplement or Medicine (depending on the dose) – possibility to become a food additive

Italy : Food supplement

Slovakia : *Technical use* or Food supplement

Finland : Food product (food ingredient of animal origin) or food supplement depending on the decision of the manufacturer

Belgium : food supplement or medicine made from propolis

# Bee venom

## **Definition proposed :**

Secretion from the bee's venom gland used by bees to defend against hive attackers.

NB: Any medical references are problematic. A scientific opinion would be required from EFSA.

**At MS level :**

**No official definition in DE, FR, ES, IT, SK, FI**

**National regulation : IT**

# Bee venom

## Status :

Germany : Medicine

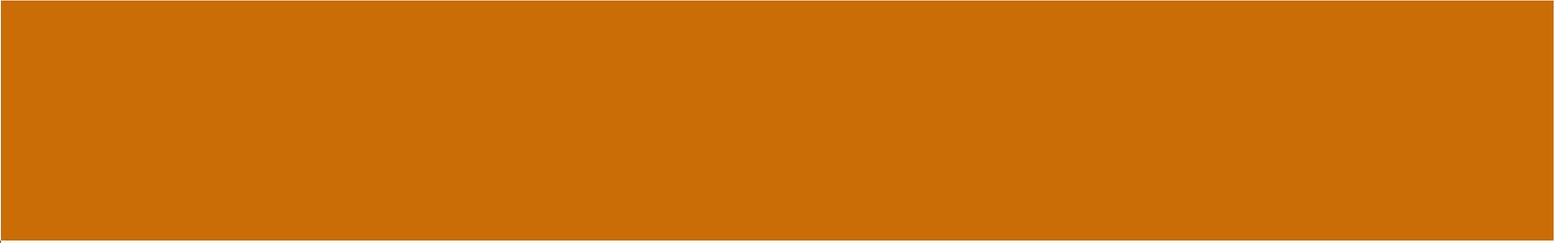
Italy : Medicine

Finland : Medicine

Belgium : Medicine made from bee venom

# General recommendations

- Royal jelly, pollen pellets, bee pollen or bee bread  
→ food product or food supplement
- Bees wax → food additive E901 + pharmacopoeia
- Propolis → food supplement or medicine (not exclusive)
- Beekeepers should be able to sell directly these products to the consumers
- Harmonisation of definitions at EU level with analytical criteria :
  - physico chemical and
  - indispensable biological criteria



**Thank you for your  
attention !!**