



European  
Commission

# EU FOOD FRAUD NETWORK COORDINATED CASE

**Beeswax adulterated with stearin  
and paraffin**



**DG SANTE**  
**Unit G5 – Alerts, Traceability and Committees**

**CDG - Brussels, 13 November 2018**

Health and  
Food Safety





# Beeswax adulteration: EU coordinat

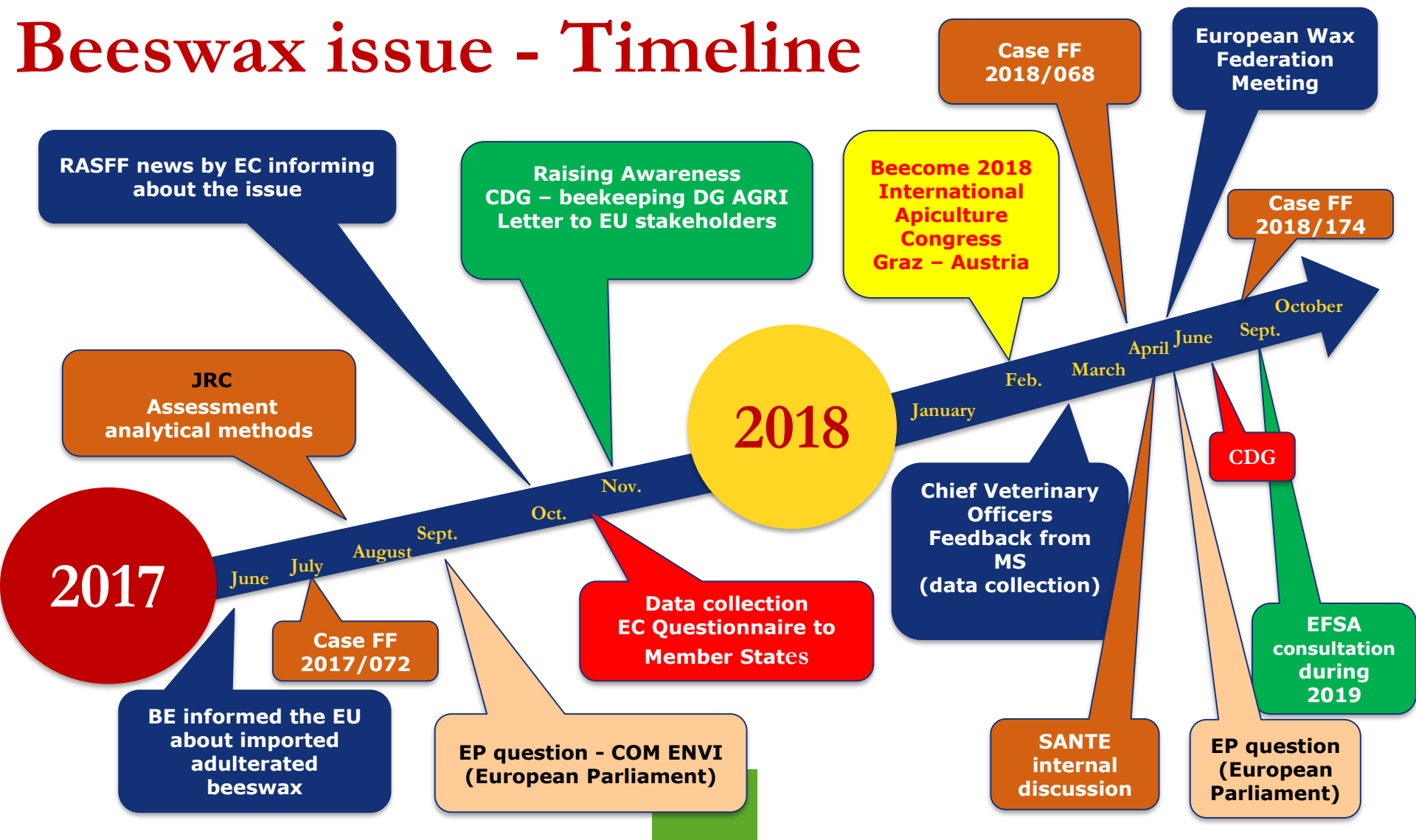
**In October 2017 DG SANTE informed, through a RASFF news, on the problem of adulteration of beeswax intended for apiculture use**

- widespread fraud
- cross-border (EU +TC)
- difficult to take appropriate action to address the non-compliances

\*EU Coordinated case under art. 40 of Reg. 882/2004 OCR

**EU Food Fraud  
Network**

# Beeswax issue - Timeline



# Beeswax adulteration

## Directly involved

- Coordinated by European Commission (DG SANTE)
- Countries: BE, FR, DE, CH

## Indirectly involved

- Origin of the beeswax: China, Ukraine, Turkey...
- Destination of the adulterated wax: FR, ES, DE, BE

# Timeline...

- **During 2019** – Request to EFSA for scientific and technical assistance on beeswax adulteration with stearin and paraffin
  - **Second half of 2019** – Possible legal amending's?
- 
- **October 17 – until today:** data collection (still open)
  - **EU FFN:** new cases reporting (last possible case 20/09/2018)

# Scientific advise...

## EU Coordinated case

3  
AAC-  
FF

1  
RASFF  
news



EU Food Fraud  
Network

## **Possible Terms of reference of the EFSA request**

**In accordance with Art. 31 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, the Commission asks EFSA to provide scientific and technical assistance concerning beeswax adulteration with stearin and paraffin.**

**1. In the absence of a specific standard within the EU legislation, the establishment of purity criteria and technical specifications for beeswax when used in apiculture and as a food in honey pots.**

**2. Evaluation of the impact of the migration of stearin and paraffin contained in beeswax intended for apiculture use on bee's health and possible safety concerns for humans due to consumption of honey contaminated with constituents of adulterated beeswax or direct consumption of honey combs.**

## Possible legal amendments\*

- Certain Member States proposed to amend the ABP Commission Implementing Regulation in order to introduce a definition of beeswax.
- However, the introduction of a new definition should be carefully assessed to prevent any unwanted trade barriers in existing trade in beeswax which may be destined for different purposes. The foreseen amendment will be subject to intensive discussion with the concerned industry sector.

**\*Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption**



## Possible Annexes affected\*

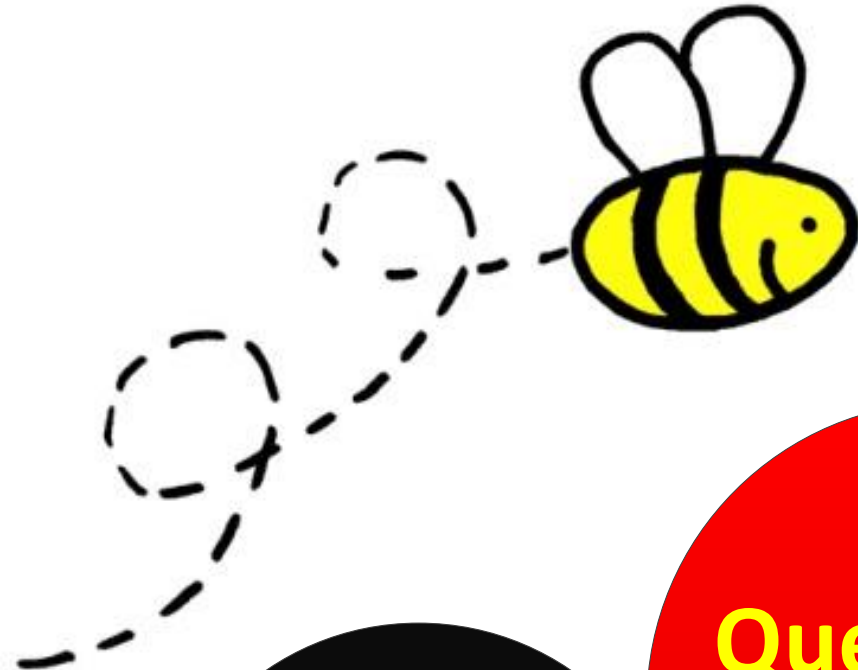
### Annex I point 10 and Annex XV Chapter 13

Beeswax of category 3 materials intended for use in apiculture should comply with specifications established for E901 beeswax, white and yellow, in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EU) 231/2012

**\*DRAFT PROPOSAL ON-GOING DISCUSSION to amend Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption**



European  
Commission



**Thank you for  
your  
attention!!**

**Questions/  
comments?**

**SANTE-  
FOOD-  
FRAUD@ec.  
europa.eu**