



NBBC

Nordic Baltic Bee Council

Memorandum on honey fraud and unfair competition on the honey market

We are writing to express serious concerns about food fraud and unfair competition in the honey industry, which is affecting the market for real honey produced by European beekeepers.

As you may be aware, a recent investigation by the European Commission's Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) found that 46% of honey samples tested contained added sugar syrups. This influx of low-cost honey-like products is flooding the European market.


This practice not only undermines the market for real honey produced by European beekeepers but also poses a risk to consumer health and safety, not to mention the risk of lack of pollination if beekeepers are closing down. It is imperative that measures are put in place to prevent and detect food fraud in the honey industry and to address the unfair competition from low-cost honey-like products.


We strongly recommend our ministers and members of the European Parliament to work for:


- Better labelling of honey blends with an obligation to mention the respective countries of origin with percentage shares in descending order.
- The European Union must update the official methods available to national control authorities for the detection of honey fraud and establish a community reference centre to continuously improve these methods.
- Member States must reinforce controls and systematically check imported honey batches based on those improved methods combined with proof of traceability from hive to pot.

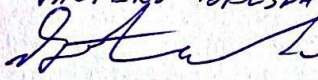
We demand immediate action from the EU Commission to address these issues and protect our industry, market, bees, and pollination efforts. Thank you for considering our concerns, and we look forward to your response and further dialogue.

Agreed on the meeting of Nordic Baltic Bee Council
31st of March 2023


Name: 
Title: *General Secretary*
Norwegian Beekeepers' Association
Norges Birøkerlag



Name: Alexander Kvein
Title: *chairman*
Estonian Beekeepers' Association
Eesti Mesinike Liit

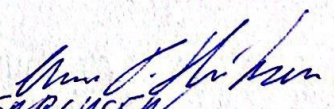
Name: 
Title: *Member of staff*
Swedish Beekeepers' Association
Sveriges Biodlares Riksförbund

Name: *VALTERS BRUSBAEDIS*

Title: *BOARD MEMBER OF LBA*
Latvian Beekeepers' Association
Latvijas Biškopības Biedrība

Name: *Kaarina Kuitava*
Title: *vice chairman*
Finnish Beekeepers' Association
Suomen Mehiläishoitajain Liitto

Name: *TAUTVYDAS VAIČIŪNAS*
Title: *CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD*
The Lithuanian Union of Beekeepers
Lietuvos bitininkų sąjunga 

Name: 
Title: *chairman*
Åland Beekeepers' Association
Ålands Biodlarförening r.f.

Name: *Arne T. Henriksen*

Title: *CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD*
Danish Beekeepers' Association
Danmarks Biavlerforening