

JG/ZK

21 March 2023

F.E.E.D.M. Statement

EU coordinated action “From the Hives” to deter certain fraudulent practices in the honey sector

F.E.E.D.M. represents about 90% of the total European honey import as well as a significant share of traders and packers of European produced honey.

We as F.E.E.D.M. undertake the greatest efforts to maintain the impeccable quality of our honey products. Our association distances itself from any fraudulent practices and welcomes actions such as “From the Hives”, not only with regard to non-EU honey, in order to fully protect the consumer when purchasing honey, regardless of its origin.

F.E.E.D.M. is eager to support any improvement of analytical methods that meet scientific standards and offer reliable and comparable results to guarantee authentic honey. Since 2016 F.E.E.D.M. closely works with its own Technical Working Group on the harmonisation of analytical methods for honey authenticity, as there is currently no official guidance available.

Prior to the publication of “From the Hives”, F.E.E.D.M. had the possibility to meet with the EU Commission (DG SANTE, DG AGRI) and the JRC (Joint Research Centre) to express our opinion as interested party and engage in a dialogue about future actions.

With regards to the results of the “From the Hives” report, F.E.E.D.M. would like to point out that a suspicion of adulteration does not necessarily lead to a confirmation of this suspicion. We will report any kind of fraudulent actions in order to guarantee the purity and authenticity of our honey and to protect the consumers. However, the association therefore considers it urgently necessary that the EU Commission intensifies the process of harmonising and defining suitable analytical methods now to combat honey adulteration.

Best regards,

F.E.E.D.M.



Jeanette Gonnermann
General Secretary