



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels, **11 AVR. 2014**
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Dear Mr Lindell,

Thank you for your email of 13 March regarding the origin labelling of honey.

The requirements regarding the labelling of the origin of honey are laid down in Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey.

Article 2(4)(a) of this Directive states that:

"the country or countries of origin where the honey has been harvested shall (emphasis added) be indicated on the label.

However, if the honey originates in more than one Member State or third country that indication may (emphasis added) be replaced with one of the following as appropriate:

- "Blend of EC honeys"
- "Blend of non-EC honeys"
- "Blend of EC and non EC honeys"."

The Directive is addressed to the Member States and is not directly applicable to the operators.

The Commission considers that the first paragraph of Article 2(4)(a) is a requirement which must be transposed into the national legislation of the Member States. However, the second paragraph of Article 2(4)(a), opening the possibility to label honey coming from different countries as blends of EC, non EC or EC and non EC honeys is optional.

Italy transposed the Directive by the legislative decree No 179 of 21 May 2004 amended later on by the legislative decree No 2 of 10 January 2006. This Decree as amended requires that all countries of origin of honey must be indicated on the label when honeys are coming from different countries. As the alternative to label honey coming from different countries as blends of EC, non EC or EC and non EC honeys is optional, the Italian legislative decree as amended is in line with the provisions of the Directive 2001/110/EC regarding the labelling of origin of honey.

Mr Martin Lindell
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Please note that any opinion on EU legislation expressed by the services of the European Commission is without prejudice of any possible decision of the Court of Justice, which has exclusive jurisdiction over the validity and the interpretation of the legislation adopted by the EU institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Pour le Directeur Général empêché

Joost KORTE

Directeur Général Adjoint

Jerzy PLEWA