EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF HONEY PACKERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

F.E.E.D.M.

FÉDERATION EUROPÉENNE DES EMBALLEURS ET DISTRIBUTEURS DE MIEL

F.E.E.D.M. Office

Fédération Européenne des Emballeurs et Distributeurs de Miel

Ms. Elena Yoncheva
Member of the European Parliament
SPINELLI 02G340
B-1047 Brussels

Brussels, 24 April 2026

Subject:
Request for an evidence-based, legally sound and scientifically rigorous debate on honey market integrity

Dear Ms Yoncheva,

On behalf of F.E.E.D.M., the European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors, we would like to express our concern regarding certain statements made during the conference EU Honey Market Integrity: Trade Importance and Fraud Risks, held at the European Parliament on 22 April 2026 under your initiative.

F.E.E.D.M. fully shares the need to combat food fraud, strengthen honey authenticity, and protect both consumers and honest operators across the supply chain. For years, our members have worked precisely in that direction, participating in European technical and regulatory fora, supporting the development of more robust analytical methods, and applying, in their day-to-day operations, traceability systems, supplier control programmes, documentary checks, laboratory testing and internal compliance procedures. Fraud must be pursued firmly. On that, there is no disagreement.

What we do consider unacceptable, however, is that generalised accusations or insinuations of concealment, tolerance or involvement in fraudulent activity should be directed, in a European institutional forum, against packers, importers, national associations or F.E.E.D.M. as a whole, without the presentation of verifiable evidence, specific cases, sound methodologies or identifiable sources. Statements of that kind, when unsupported by proper evidence, seriously damage the reputation of legitimate operators, undermine confidence in the public debate and make an effective response to real fraud more difficult.

The fight against fraud cannot be built on presumptions, conjecture or collective imputations. It must be based on facts, case files, controls, validated methods and due process. Precisely because honey fraud is a serious matter, public decisions and institutional messaging must be grounded in the highest legal and scientific standards, with proportionality, traceability of evidence and respect for the basic principles of legal certainty. Introducing controls or promoting accusations without the slightest legal and scientific rigour does not strengthen the system: it weakens it, creates exposure to error, generates legal uncertainty and fuels polarisation within the sector.

We are particularly concerned by the suggestion that the non-signature of a specific document by certain countries or associations could somehow amount to resistance to fighting fraud.

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That conclusion does not follow. In a rule-of-law system, disagreement over methods, thresholds, validation or regulatory applicability cannot be equated with tolerance of fraud. On the contrary, insisting on robust, harmonised, proportionate and legally defensible methods is a necessary condition for official controls to be effective, legitimate and sustainable.

For this reason, we respectfully request three concrete steps.

First, that those who have made such serious allegations be invited to share, in writing, the specific evidence on which they rely: concrete cases, batches, operators, methods used, authorities involved and verifiable results.

Second, that a technical meeting be organised with your office, the relevant services and F.E.E.D.M., so that we may contribute constructively with practical, regulatory and analytical expertise.

Third, that future initiatives on this matter ensure balanced participation from all parts of the supply chain, so that the institutional debate reflects both the legitimate concern over fraud and the need to preserve rigour, proportionality and due process.

Should you consider it appropriate, considering the absence of specific evidence, to issue a public clarification regarding the scope of certain statements made during the event, we believe this would contribute positively to bringing the debate back onto a more useful, fair and institutionally appropriate footing.

F.E.E.D.M. reiterates its full willingness to work with the European institutions, with producers and with the other actors of the sector to combat real fraud, improve controls and strengthen trust in honey marketed in the European Union. But that common effort will only be effective if it is based on evidence, science, legality and institutional responsibility.

We remain at your disposal for a technical and constructive exchange at any time convenient to you.

Best regards,

F.E.E.D.M.

David Senchermés
F.E.E.D.M. President

Jeanette Gonnermann
General Secretary

F.E.E.D.M. ▪ Grosse Bäckerstrasse 4 ▪ 20095 Hamburg ▪ Germany
Tel.: +49 40 37 47 19 13 ▪ Fax: +49 40 37 47 19 19 ▪ E-Mail: feedm@waren-verein.de ▪ Web: www.feedm.com
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