Basic information

2001/2156(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Honey: improving production and marketing (implem. Regulation (EC) No 1211/97). Report **Subject** 3.10.05 Livestock products, in general	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	LULLING Astrid (PPE-DE)	27/02/2001
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Agriculture and Rural Development		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/02/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0070	Summary
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2001	Vote in committee		
05/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0381/2001	
13/12/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0716/2001	Summary
13/12/2001	Debate in Parliament		
13/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
25/07/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2156(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/5/15116

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0381/2001	05/11/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0716/2001 OJ C 177 25.07.2002, p. 0224-0327 E	13/12/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0070	16/02/2001	Summary

Honey: improving production and marketing (implem. Regulation (EC) No 1211/97). Report

2001/2156(COS) - 16/02/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to lay down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey. CONTENT : in June 1997 the Council adopted Regulation 1221/97/EC with a view to improving the production and marketing of honey in the European Union. Under this Regulation, the Member States may draw up annual national programmes in close collaboration with representative organisations and beekeeping cooperatives. In November 1997, Commission Regulation 2300/97/EC laid down detailed rules implementing the Council Regulation. Under Article 6 of Regulation 1221/97/EC, the Commission must present a report to the European Parliament and the Council every three years on the application of the Regulation. This is the first such report. National programmes drawn up pursuant to Regulation 1221/97/EC to improve the production and marketing of honey were adopted for the first four marketing years. It should be mentioned that, because national programmes for the first year were adopted with some delay, Community funds had to be transferred to the following budget year as an exceptional measure to enable the programmes to be implemented. With regard to implementation, most of the Member States had problems in the first year the national programmes were introduced, reflected in the low rate of implementation for the first two years. The main sources of difficulty were: · adoption of the Commission's implementing Regulation towards the end of 1997, · the request by certain Member States for more time to complete their study of the structure of the sector, · the fact that this was a new kind of scheme, of which the Member States' administrations had no previous experience. Member States also reported particular problems with the timetable for implementation and with the administration of programmes. On the administrative side, three Member States reported general problems with introducing the scheme (Greece, France and Italy) and four experienced administrative problems relating to co-ordination with the regions (Germany, Spain, Italy and Portugal). Apparently, some of these problems were due to the grouping of applications for reimbursement of expenditure around 15 October, the end of the EAGGF Guarantee Section Overall, Regulation 1221/97/EC to improve production and marketing of honey in the European Union seems to have helped the beekeeping sector. The priority measures in the Regulation, although limited from the budget point of view, have been valuable in terms of quality. After initial difficulties in introducing the scheme, the application of national programmes seems to have been satisfactory in the Member States. Lastly, the Commission will shortly be presenting an amendment to Regulation 2300/97/EC.

Honey: improving production and marketing (implem. Regulation (EC) No 1211/97). Report

2001/2156(COS) - 13/12/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Astrid LULLING (EPP-ED, L). The resolution notes that the programmes cofinanced by the EU under Regulation 1221/97/EC have qualitative and quantitative shortcomings and have proved incapable of preventing the deterioration of the situation facing European bee-keepers as markets open up and become more global. It also expresses concern at the fact that the production and marketing of honey in the Union are hampered by long-standing structural deficiencies, while the pollination of plants by bees, which must continue in all areas in order to obviate any adverse effects on the environment and rural development, is under threat. Urgent action should be taken to enable the sector to

cope financially with the genuine crisis which it is currently experiencing, involving for example a more flexible interpretation of Regulation 1221/97/EC, which would allow programmes which meet the need to ensure the sector's survival to be cofinanced. On the other hand, the Parliament condemns the US trade authorities' imposition of anti-dumping duties on imports of honey from Argentina and China - the EU's main suppliers - which is resulting in greater pressure from such products on the Community market, leading to falling prices and lower income levels for European bee-keepers. Equally, it deplores the fact that the Commission sees no need to alter Council Regulation 1221/97/EC or Commission Regulation 2300/97/EC and that the only proposal put forward in report COM(2001) 70, subsequently implemented under Regulation 704/2001/EC, is to simplify the management of the existing budgetary framework. There is also a call for honey to be incorporated into veterinary policy, particularly as regards the appropriations allocated to combating varroasis. The Parliament considers that the budget resources allocated to bee-keeping under Regulation 1221/97/EC fall short of what is required and it believes that the overall budget must gradually be increased both to finance new measures and to raise the percentage of Community funding and enable measures to be implemented more consistently and fairly.