Basic information

2004/0003(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Apiculture programme: measures to improve the production and marketing of honey Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1221/97 1996/0282(CNS) **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)	19/02/2004

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2578	2004-04-26

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Agriculture and Rural Development	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/2004	Legislative proposal published	COM(2004)0030	Summary
09/02/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/04/2004	Vote in committee		
05/04/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0232/2004	
22/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0351/2004	Summary
26/04/2004	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

26/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/0003(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1221/97 1996/0282(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 036
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/5/20653

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0232/2004	05/04/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0351/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0742-0941 E	22/04/2004	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2004)0030	23/01/2004	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2007)0131	23/03/2007	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0531/2004	31/03/2004	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2004/0797
OJ L 125 28.04.2004, p. 0001-0003 Summary

Apiculture programme: measures to improve the production and marketing of honey

2004/0003(CNS) - 23/03/2007 - Follow-up document

The Commission presents this follow-up report in fulfilment of its obligation under Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 797/2004 on measures improving general conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products, whichprovides for a report on the implementation of this Regulation to be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council every three years. In accordance with the Regulation, Member States submitted notification of their studies on the structure of the sector (including hive censuses). It is important to note that all Member States set up an apiculture programme, which shows their interest in this area and the needs of the European beekeeping sector.

World Situation: World honey production increased by 9.2% in the period 2001–05, and has risen by 25% since 1996. Since 2004, the EU has become the world's second largest producer. In 2005, the EU produced 13% of world production, while China consolidated its position as the world's largest producer. The two new EU Member States are also major honey producers. With regard to exports, Argentina became the single largest exporter (over 30% of world trade), with exports up by more than 40% on previous years. China, which has traditionally been the largest exporter, has seen its exports fall quite sharply since 2001. The main import market is still the EU, which absorbed about 45% of global honey imports in 2005. Germany and the United Kingdom accounted for almost 70% of total imports into the EU in 2005. Global imports have been rising steadily since the end of the 1970s as a result of increased consumption of natural products, efforts on the part of certain traders to introduce speciality honeys or low-price honey, usually in the form of blends, and increased industrial use of honey.

Situation in the EU: the EU has a honey deficit and usually has to import about half of the honey consumed, self-sufficiency in 2004/05 being 54.2%. Nevertheless, self-sufficiency has improved since EU enlargement to 25 Member States, as before this it was about 45%. The Union’s three major honey producers are Spain, Germany and Hungary. The EU imports approximately 150 000 t of honey each year. Argentina remains the main supplier, with almost 50% of total Community imports in 2005, followed by Mexico and Brazil. With regard to import prices, the average price of imports into the EU has dropped considerably since 2003, falling from EUR 2.31/kg to EUR 1.29/kg. The figures available for 2006 show that import prices are once again rising slightly. The average export price of Community honey has also been falling since 2004, but remains relatively high. At EUR 3.63/kg, the average price is well above that of imported honey. This is because European honey is often high-quality honey with specific desirable organoleptic qualities (monofloral honeys).

The Commission goes on to discuss the structure of the sector, noting that 3% of the beekeepers own nearly 40% of the hives. The number of hives has increased since 2003, due to EU enlargement. Annual per capita honey consumption was 0.7 kg in 2005. There has been no significant increase in the last few years. The Member State in which the most honey is consumed is Greece. To enable Community honey to compete against global competition, apiculture products have, under Commission Regulation (EC) No 422/2005,for the first time, become eligible for measures to provide information on, and to promote, agricultural products on the internal market.

Implementation of honey programmes: there has been no substantial change in the way the budget is used, either as a result of the amendment to the Council Regulation in 2004 or as a result of enlargement. It should be borne in mind that when the Council Regulation was amended in 2004, a new type of measure was introduced: namely, aid to support the restocking of hives. In 2005 and 2006, the most widely used measure remained varroasis control (between 33% and 35%, amounting to over EUR 8 million), followed by technical assistance (26% or almost EUR 6 million), rationalisation of transhumance (19% or almost EUR 4.5 million) honey analyses (8% or approximately EUR 1.8 million), restocking of hives (between 6% and 7%, or EUR 1.5 million) and finally applied research (5% or approximately EUR 1 million). Compared to previous years, there has been quite a considerable decrease in the funds allocated to varroasis control, although it still remained the most widely used measure, accounting for more than 42% of the budget for 2001-02. This is mainly because of the introduction of measures for restocking of hives and a slightly higher uptake for honey analyses. The Commission discusses relevant figures for implementation of expenditure, and states that in 2006, provisional expenditure under the Member States' programmes came to 82.5% of the total planned expenditure; that is to say, approximately EUR 19 million were spent out of a total of EUR 23 million. As Member States can pay some expenses later, the definitive percentage use of funds for programmes in 2006 should be higher. For programmes in 2004, which preceded EU enlargement, the percentage used was 84%. For programmes in 2005, which were the first ones to be implemented under the triennial system, the percentage was slightly lower (78%). This can be explained by the fact that the new Member States had no experience with these programmes, and national legislative and administrative procedures sometimes took a long time to set up. Furthermore, most of these Member States saw their percentage use of funds improve appreciably in 2006, which was the case for Hungary and Poland in particular. This shows how easy these programmes are to operate. We can expect the percentage used to be even higher for programmes in 2007.

Overall, Member States are satisfied with the way in which these programmes are run and there have been no persistent requests to amend Regulation (EC) No 797/2004. The fact that programmes are scheduled to run for a period of three years is seen as an improvement which makes it possible to anticipate and plan certain measures. The request that Member States made most often was for greater flexibility in adjusting programmes. Implementing Regulation (EC) No 917/2004 provides for changes to be made to the content of programmes during the course of the year, as Article 6

states that the budget allocated to each of the six eligible measures may be increased or reduced by a maximum of 20% without seeking the opinion of the Management Committee. If a change exceeds this limit, it is possible to make adjustments to the programme by seeking the opinion of the Management Committee. Member States made a variety of other suggestions as did those working in the sector. Both the industry (FEEDM) and the producers (COPA-COGECA) recognise the benefit that the apiculture programmes bring in terms of real support for the sector. They emphasise the fact that this is the only instrument available to the sector. The sector's suggestions include ensuring greater cooperation between Member States and the sector when drawing up programmes, and providing for greater flexibility in changing the budget allocated to different measures during the course of the programme.

The Commission concludes that Regulation (EC) No 797/2004 seems to be yielding positive results in the beekeeping sector, both for Member States and for beekeepers. This sector is characterised by a wide diversity of production conditions, and by the dispersion and variety of players both at the production and at the marketing stage. The priority measures in the Regulation, although limited from the budget point of view, have been valuable in terms of quality. The triennial nature of the programmes since 2004 seems to have brought greater flexibility when it comes to preparation and implementation.

In view of the contents of the report, the Commission considers it inadvisable to amend Regulation (EC) No 797/2004. However, the flexibility to be able to make changes to programmes during the course of the year without affecting the total budget allocated to each Member State, as requested both by the majority of Member States and by the traders, could form the subject of a draft amendment to Commission Regulation (EC) No 917/2004.

Apiculture programme: measures to improve the production and marketing of honey

2004/0003(CNS) - 26/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to improve the production and marketing of honey. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 797/2004/EC on measures improving general conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products. CONTENT : This Regulation repeals and replaces Regulation 1221/97/EC. Beekeeping is a sector of agriculture, the main functions of which are economic activity and rural development, the production of honey and other products of the hive and the maintenance of ecological balance. The sector is characterised by diversity of production conditions and yields, and by the dispersion and variety of economic operators, both at the production and marketing stage. In view of the spread of varroasis in several Member States in recent years and the problems which this disease causes for honey production, this Regulation prescribes Community action to improve the production and marketing of apiculture products in the Community. It states that national programmes should be drawn up every three years comprising technical assistance, control of varroasis, rationalisation of transhumance, management of the restocking of hives in the Community, and cooperation on research programmes on beekeeping and apiculture products. In addition: - in order to supplement the statistical data on beekeeping, Member States must carry out studies on the structure of the sector, covering production, marketing and price formation; - expenditure by the Member States in fulfilment of the obligations arising from this Regulation will be borne by the Community in accordance with Council Regulation 1258/1999/EC; - whilst the competition rules governing State aid in the field of beekeeping apply, an exemption from the rules on State aids is made with regard to financial contributions provided by Member States for measures subject to Community support in accordance with this Regulation as well as with regard to specific national aids for the protection of apiaries disadvantaged by structural or natural conditions or under economic development programmes, except for those granted for production or trade; - special rules are established for such State aid. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 28/04/04.

Apiculture programme: measures to improve the production and marketing of honey

2004/0003(CNS) - 22/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report drafted by Astrid LULLING (EPP-ED, L) by 419 votes in favour, 37 against with 3 abstentions on actions in the field of beekeeping. Parliament notes that there continues to be an imbalance between supply and demand in the market in honey within the Community. Moreover, the level of self-sufficiency has fallen still further in the last three years, as a result of which the price of honey in the European Union depends directly on the world price, which is itself very unstable. It should be noted that the European Parliament included several amendments to the text adopted. These concern the following: - in implementing Article 26a of Directive 2001/18/EC, Member States should take legislative measures on the coexistence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops that also allow beekeepers to manufacture honey with a pollution level below the threshold value of 0.9 %; - the Member States of the European Union have a substantial beekeeping tradition and some are large producers of honey, which should be taken into account in the implementation of this Regulation, not least in terms of the budget allocated thereto; - bearing in mind on the one hand the European Parliament's resolution of 9 October 2003 on the difficulties faced by the European beekeeping sector, which officially recognises the exceptional decline in the bee population in recent years, and on the other hand Regulation 1398/2003/EC, which prohibits the import of packets of bees, and the current shortage of biological material production units, measures need to be introduced in support of the restoration and development of the Community's bee population; - quality control checks on honey play a major part in enabling, on the one hand, improvement of the production and marketing of honey and, on the other, prevention of the marketing of honey that fails to meet the European quality criteria principally laid down in Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey. These checks make for stabilisation of the market and of prices; - each Member State must draw up a national programme for a period of 3 years, reviewable annually, hereinafter referred to as the "apiculture programme". The programme shall comprise of the following: - technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers; - control of varroasis and its corollaries; - rationalisation of transhumance; - measures to support the restoration and development of the Community's bee population; - cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of improving the bee population and the quality of honey and apiculture products; - measures in support of honey analysis laboratories; - any other measure apt to improve the production and marketing of honey and apiculture products. - the Community shall provide part-financing for the apiculture programmes equivalent to 75% of the expenditure borne by Member States.

Apiculture programme: measures to improve the production and marketing of honey

2004/0003(CNS) - 23/01/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to lay down measures to improve the conditions for the production and marketing of apiculture products in the EU. PROPOSED ACT : Council Regulation. CONTENT : in June 1997 the Council adopted Regulation 1221/97/EC laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey. The Commission sent the Council and the European Parliament reports on the implementation of Regulation 1221/97/EC in February 2001 and January 2004. The conclusions drawn from these reports show that the measures provided for by Regulation 1221/97/EC should be adapted to the current situation in the Community beekeeping sector. That Regulation should therefore be repealed and replaced by a new one. Beekeeping is a sector of agriculture, the main functions of which are economic activity and rural development, the production of honey and other products of the hive and the maintenance of ecological balance. The sector is characterised by diversity of production conditions and yields, and by the dispersion and variety of producers and traders, both at the production and marketing stage. The aim of this proposal is to improve the conditions for the production and marketing of honey in the European Union. This objective may be achieved by means of three-year national programmes which include measures in the field of technical assistance, control of varroasis, rationalisation of transhumance, restocking hives and applied research in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products. The control of varroasis is not an eradication measure but aims to reduce the economic impact of this disease caused by a parasite on the profitability of production. In order to be eligible for the Community part-financing for the national programmes, the Member States must draw up and forward to the Commission a study on the structure of the sector, the production and marketing of the products and on the measures they plan to carry out. The Member States must also send the Commission statistical data on these programmes. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : - Budget heading : 05.03.04.07 (former nomenclature B1-2320); - Appropriations (2004 budget) : EUR 16.5 million.