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European Union

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**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	8624/23 + ADD 1- ADD 4
Subject:	Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Directives 2001/110/EC relating to honey, 2001/112/EC relating to fruit juices and certain similar products intended for human consumption, 2001/113/EC relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and sweetened chestnut purée intended for human consumption, and 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption - Comments from the Croatian delegation

Delegations will find attached the Croatian delegation's comments and replies in response to the request from the Presidency sent on 20 December 2023, and that can be found in document 16745/23.

**CROATIAN REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN DOCUMENT 16745/23*****Breakfast directives***

Below, we submit preliminary comments on the amendments of the European Parliament as we are still analysing them.

In general, we are pleased that the Parliament's proposal largely coincides with the Council's position. Regarding Parliament's new proposals that haven't been discussed until now, we are of the opinion that some proposals are worth considering. However, this takes us more time, given the need to consult with all interested parties at national level.

**1. HONEY****1.1 What is the opinion of the Member States on the introduction of a traceability system that requires Member States to trace back the entire supply chain of a given honey to beekeepers or harvesting operators in the case of imported honey (AM 21, 56)?**

We believe that the establishment of traceability of honey and honey mixtures is necessary, particularly because FBOs will have to list all countries of origin of the honey mixture, including the proportion of honey from each country. However, the proposal needs to be elaborated and further discussed since not all its details are clear. Furthermore, it is necessary to consider whether Member States can carry out official controls based on documentation resulting from existing food law, in order to avoid additional unnecessary burdens on FBOs. We are still considering this proposal.

**1.2 What is the opinion of the Member States on the proposed change of the definition of honey, in particular to exclude ultrafiltration, artificial evaporation and vacuum evaporation as allowed techniques and to introduce a new type of honey, namely 'unheated honey' (AM 19, 20, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 67)?**

In principle, we support the ban on all technological treatment that can alter the honey as it is and, in that way, undermine the quality of honey and the competitiveness of European honey on the market. Anyhow, we are still considering this concrete proposal.

**2. FRUIT JUICES****2.1 What is the opinion of the Member States on the proposal to introduce origin labelling for fruit in fruit juices (main AM 33)?**

This proposal is already partially covered with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775. We are still analysing the benefit balance with the risk that it would present an additional administrative burden and costs for FBOs.

**2.2 What is the opinion of Member States on the proposal to restrict claims for reduced-sugar fruit juices and to prohibit any comparative claims for those products in comparison with the fruits they originate from or ‘normal’ fruit juices (AM 36)?**

In general, we can support this amendment. Additional text should be added to the proposal “with the exception of claims allowed in line with Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006”.

**2.3 What is the opinion, in principle, of the Member States on the proposal to subordinate the creation of the new categories of reduced-sugar fruit juices to the adoption of criteria better defining the essential physical, chemical, organoleptic and nutritional characteristics of an average type of juice (AM 37, 38)**

We consider that the adoption of criteria better defining essential physical, chemical, organoleptic and nutritional characteristics of an average type of juice, are crucial, but we are not of the opinion that the creation of new categories should be postponed.

### **3. JAM**

**3.1 What is the opinion of the Member States on the proposal to introduce origin labelling for fruits and sugar in jams (AM 39)?**

This proposal is already partially covered with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775. We are still analysing the benefit balance with the risk that it would present an additional administrative burden and costs for FBOs.

### **4. AOB**

**4.1 Are there any other issues Member States wish to express concerning the content of the mandate of the European Parliament?**

We consider that additional amendments of EP should also be discussed, namely amendment 61 – EU reference laboratory for honey would be a necessity in order to improve controls and detect adulteration.