



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels, **16 JUL 2013**
LB/fvn agri.ddg2.c.4(2013)2784922

Dear Mr Vodicka,

Thank you for your emails regarding a device to distribute honey in closed glass jars directly to consumers in order to improve farm-gate sales.

In your email, you ask the Commission to assess the importance that this device could have for the beekeeping sector and if it would be worth including this device among the supported equipment within the frame of the national apiculture programmes.

It is up to Member States and beekeeping associations to assess the importance that this device can potentially have for the distribution of honey directly to consumers. In this regard, please note that such devices would have to fulfil the rules laid down in Chapter III of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs. Labelling of these honey jars would also have to fulfil the requirements of the Directive 2001/110/EC related to honey and Directive 2000/13/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs.

Regarding funding, the single CMO Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 917/2004 lay down the rules for the implementation of the apiculture programmes. Under the measure called technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers, such a device could indeed be part of the equipment funded, provided the purchase of this type of device is selected by a Member State as an action of its national apiculture programme.

Yours sincerely,

Pour le Directeur Général empêché
Loretta DORMAL MARINO
Directeur Général Adjoint



Jerzy PLEWA

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