



# **Initiatives started under Reg (EC) 882/2004: Coordinated Control Plans**

**Meeting between the EU Member States and the  
European Commission  
10 March 2017**

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# Regulation (EC) 882/2004 (Art. 53) Coordinated Control Plans

- *Coordinated Control Plans:*
  - **Organised annually, or;**
  - **On an ad-hoc basis to establish the prevalence of hazards in feed, food and animals;**
  - **Voluntary in nature;**
  - **Used to understand the extent of fraud in a sector;**
  - **Rely on harmonised sampling & methods of analysis.**





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# Official Controls Regulation (OCR) Coordinated Control Programmes (Art.112)

## Objective:

- **targeted assessment of application of rules**
- **establish prevalence of certain hazards**

*COM may adopt implementing acts on:*

- coordinated control programmes in areas of OCR scope;
- the organisation of the collection of data & info on the
  - application of a specific set of the rules
  - prevalence of certain hazards.



# **JRC Technical Report on authenticity of honey**

**Official Controls Expert Group**

**10/03/2017**

## Background

### *Legal basis:*

- **Regulation (EC) No 882/2004** (Art. 53)

### *Legal references:*

- **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002** (Art.17):  
food business operators ⇒ compliance with Food Law
- **Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011** (Art. 7): food  
information shall not mislead
- **Council Directive 2001/110/EC**: common  
definition of & composition criteria for honey



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## Background

- 2014 – EP Resolution *Food crisis, fraud in the food chain and the control thereof*: honey = food vulnerable to fraud
- 2015 – EU coordinated control plan to assess the prevalence on the EU market of honey:
  - **adulterated with sugars;**
  - **mislabeled (botanical source/geographical origin)**
- Initial results for added sugar, published in December 2015:
  - **6% adulterated by sugar with further 11% suspected.**

# JRCs Study on authenticity of honey

- The JRC was asked to:
  - 1. Test samples collected by MS under the control plan with an advanced method**
  - 2. Make recommendations to validate the advanced method for use by MS official controls**





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## Method used by JRC

**Advanced method =**  
combining

- **EA-IRMS:** Elemental Analysis-Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry and
- **LC-IRMS:** Liquid-Chromatography coupled to Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry.

**Can detect adulteration with sugars from:**

**C3 plants (beet)**

**C4 plants (corn & cane).**

**However:**

- ⇒ **Not validated according to internationally accepted protocols**
- ⇒ **Compares results with empirically determined benchmark purity criteria**



## Additional Analysis by JRC

- Initial results from the MS revealed 6% adulterated by sugar with further 11% suspected;
- JRC received compliant & suspicious samples from Member States (893);
- JRC found that 14% (127/893) of these samples were also adulterated with added sugar;



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## JRCs Results

- Higher levels of added sugar found at similar levels for:
  - **Blends of EU honeys (19.8%)**
  - **Honey from single EU Member State (19.3%)**
  - **Honey from single third country (20%)**
- These samples came mainly from retailers.





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## JRCs Recommendations

- Creation of an EU Bio-bank of honeys, sugar syrups and bee feeding products:
  - **A centralised repository of authentic samples to form basis of purity criteria for EU honey.**
- European honey reference database:
  - **To store the analytical data & sampling history from the bio-bank.**
- Harmonization & validation by an international collaborative study.

## Commission Conclusions

- Honey from both the EU and third countries is being adulterated by sugar;
- Current approved methods do not detect all added sugars;
- The EA/LC-IRMS method (JRC) can detect added sugars at a more sensitive level but improvements needed, i.e. Bio-bank;
- Further consideration of next steps is needed:
  - **10 March 2017: Official Controls Expert Group;**
  - **31 May 2017: DG AGRI Civil Dialogue Group on animal products.**

## Request for MS feedback

- 1) Should the EA/LC-IRMS method be validated and used as an official control in the EU?
- 2) Should EU resources be provided to create a Bio-bank and EU honey reference database?
- 3) What other activities could be undertaken to detect and reduce fraud in honey?
- 4) Do you want a specific meeting to discuss in detail?

**Please submit answers & comments to**  
**[katherine.quinteros@ec.europa.eu](mailto:katherine.quinteros@ec.europa.eu)**  
**by 10 May 2017**



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**Thank you for your attention**

**[http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official\\_controls/eu-co-ordinated-control-plans\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/official_controls/eu-co-ordinated-control-plans_en)**

