



How did Croatia win the battle for – Croatian honey?

Dražen Lušić, PhD
Assistant Professor



**Department of Environmental
Health**



**Croatian Beekeeping
Federation**



University of Rijeka
Foundation



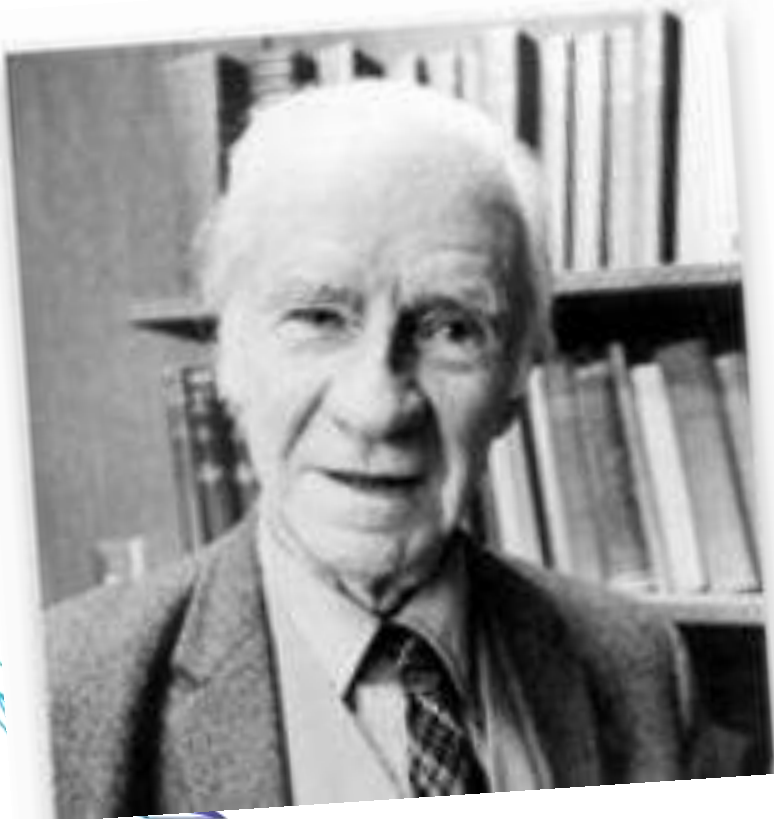
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Zero question:

Does consumers have the right to have full information about the honey origin?

With its' novel legal regulation (*Off. Gazz. 47/2017*), Croatia has put in practice compulsory labelling of the country (or countries) of origin of all honeys that are marketed on the Croatian market

It is based on the concept of the **consumer sovereignty** described by William Harold Hutt (1936). It was also in accordance to the concept of **food sovereignty** that has recently been given a lot of attention worldwide.



Consumer Sovereignty refers to the controlling power exercised by free individuals, in choosing between ends, over the custodians of the community's resources, when the resources by which those ends can be served are scarce

Food Sovereignty asserts that the people who produce, distribute, and consume food should participate more into control of the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution,

Basically, **the consumer has the right to choose**

Croatian Beekeeper's Federation, backed by the support of Croatian consumer movement, took initiative and argued to Croatian lawmaker to take into the consideration one of the basic constitutional interests of 4.5 million Croatian citizens (i.e. consumers), **sometime called voters**, to know full information about their own food.

Croatian consumers were deprived of full and complete knowledge of honey origin (?)

Croatian Honey Quality Regulation (2015) complied the Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey:

4. (a) the country or countries of origin where the honey has been harvested shall be indicated on the label. However, if the honey originates in more than one Member State or third country that indication may be replaced with one of the following, **as appropriate:**

- "blend of EC honeys",
- „blend of non-EC honeys",
- "blend of EC and non-EC honeys".

Consumer rights?



The undisputable consumer right is to know where a food product comes from !!!!!

- Croatian Food Law (Off. Gazz. 81/2013)**
- Regulation 1169/2011/EU - provision of food information to consumers**
 - ✓ **indication of the country of origin or place of provenance shall be mandatory (Art. 9 and 26)**

Codex Alimentarius **(FAO, WHO, WTO)**

Lat. „Food Law Book“

CODEX requires the indication of the producing country when floral, plant source, or the name of a geographical or topographical region is designated on the label and it does not have provision regarding blends. Thus, in countries where CODEX is valid the indication of the country where the honey has been produced is mandatory and this is not reciprocal as it is in E.U.

Croatia is the signatory of the Codex!



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C O D E X
International Food Standards

A L I M E N T A R I U S



World Health
Organization



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations

Directive 2014/63/EU of the European parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 amending Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey

By adding the concept of blends, the EU **wants to differentiate** the “blends of honey types” as being the result of human intervention from the natural honeys produced by beekeepers.

The Directive provision regarding the geographical origin has the following **misleading notions and paradoxes.**



According to the **Regulation 1169/2011/EU (articles 9 and 26)**, the place of origin is a compulsory indication on the labeling. Failure to give such information might mislead the consumer about the true origin of the foodstuff. By the word “blend”, a consumer does not know the origin of the product and this is a **contradiction to the European legislation.**



Europe has established **maximum residual limits (MRLs)** in honeys through the Reg. 37/2010 EU. Some pharmaceutical compounds may be authorized in one EU country and not in another. The acceptable limits of residues are legal only in countries where the substances in concern are authorized. By replacing the countries of origin **with the word „blend“**, the countries of origin remain unknown, residues' limits cannot be checked and **the EU legislation cannot be applied.**

Consumer Rights



Codex Alimentarius is the standard valid for honey trade in the whole world. It requires the declaration of the name of the country where the honey has been produced. Different approach causes **inconsistency to global trading of the product.**



What were the Croatian steps?



First meeting of the Ministerial Committee for changes and amendment of the national honey regulation – **Ministry of Agriculture , 09/01/2017**

Meeting of the Croatian Beekeeper's Federation and honey retailers within the Croatian chamber of commerce – **Croatian Parliament, 03/03/2017**

Meeting of the Croatian Beekeeper's Federation and honey retailers within the Croatian Chamber of Commerce – **Croatian Chamber of Commerce , 22/03/2017**

Second (and final) meeting of the Ministerial Committee for changes and amendment of the national honey regulation – **Ministry of Agriculture 30/03/2017**





The result!

May 2017. Amendments of the honey regulation
(Official Gazette 47/2017)

Art 3. par. 8. of the Regulation (Official Gazette
53/2015) – **CANCELED!**

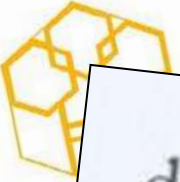
Extension for the honeys already at the market
until December 2018

Bakery honey renamed into it's proper
name **honey for industrial use!!!!**



Italy and Cyprus. All imported honeys have to be labeled with the country or country of origin. Valid only for honeys that are packed in these countries

Greece decided in 2012 the all honeys on their market have to be labeled with country or countries of origin. Croatia did it in 2017!



mr. sc. Jasminka Kelemen-Klarić, Ministarstvo poljoprivrede;
 dr. sc. Dražen Knežević, dr. vet. med., Hrvatska agencija za hranu;
 Ivan Mravak, Hrvatska poljoprivredna komora;
 dr. sc. Darijo Lasić, Nastavni zavod za javno zdravstvo „Dr. Andrija Štampar“;
 Ivan Bešlić, Hrvatski pčelarski savez.

doc. dr. sc. Dražen Lušić, Hrvatski pčelarski savez;
 Saša Petrić, mag. ing. agr., Hrvatski pčelarski savez.

PREDMET: Prijedlozi
 Pravilnika

93.10
 (»Narodne novine«
 poljoprivrede (KLASA: 0
 godine), ministar poljopri

...stupa na snagu danom donošenja.

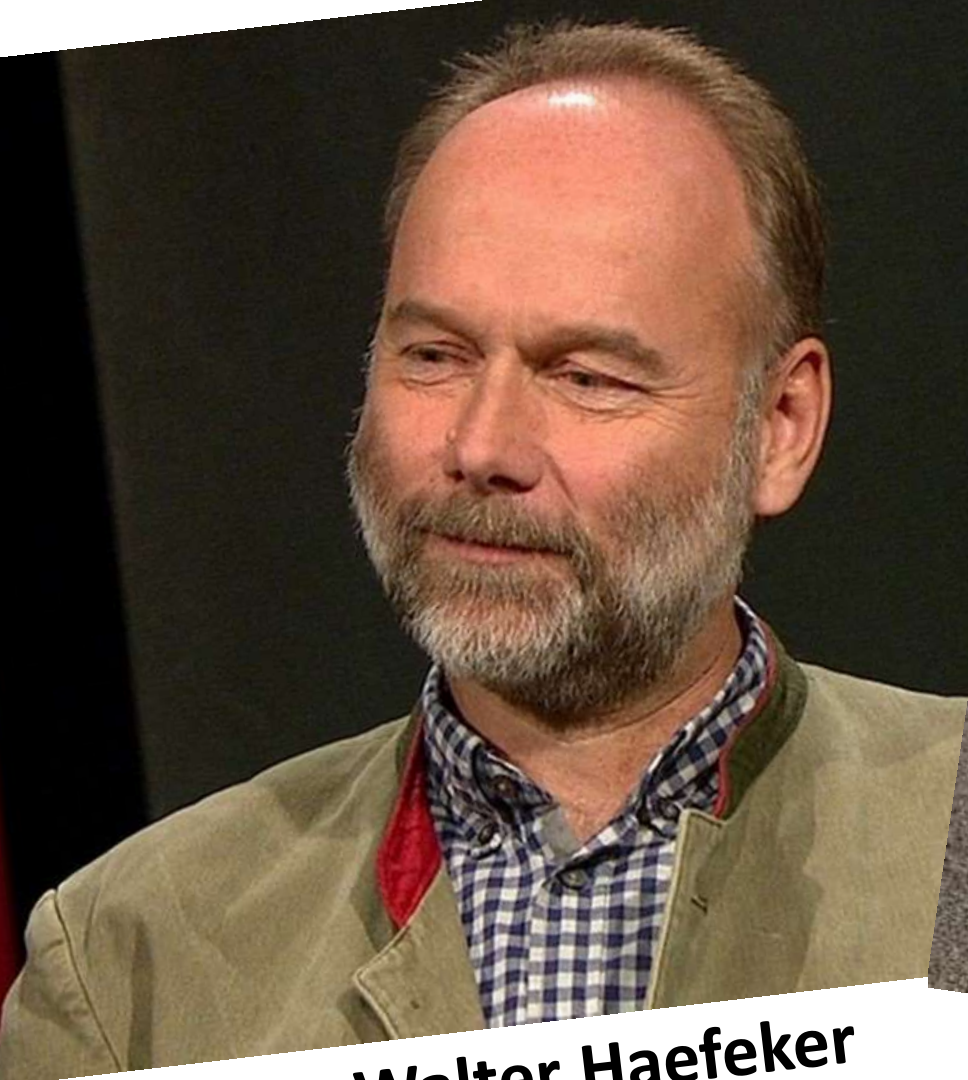
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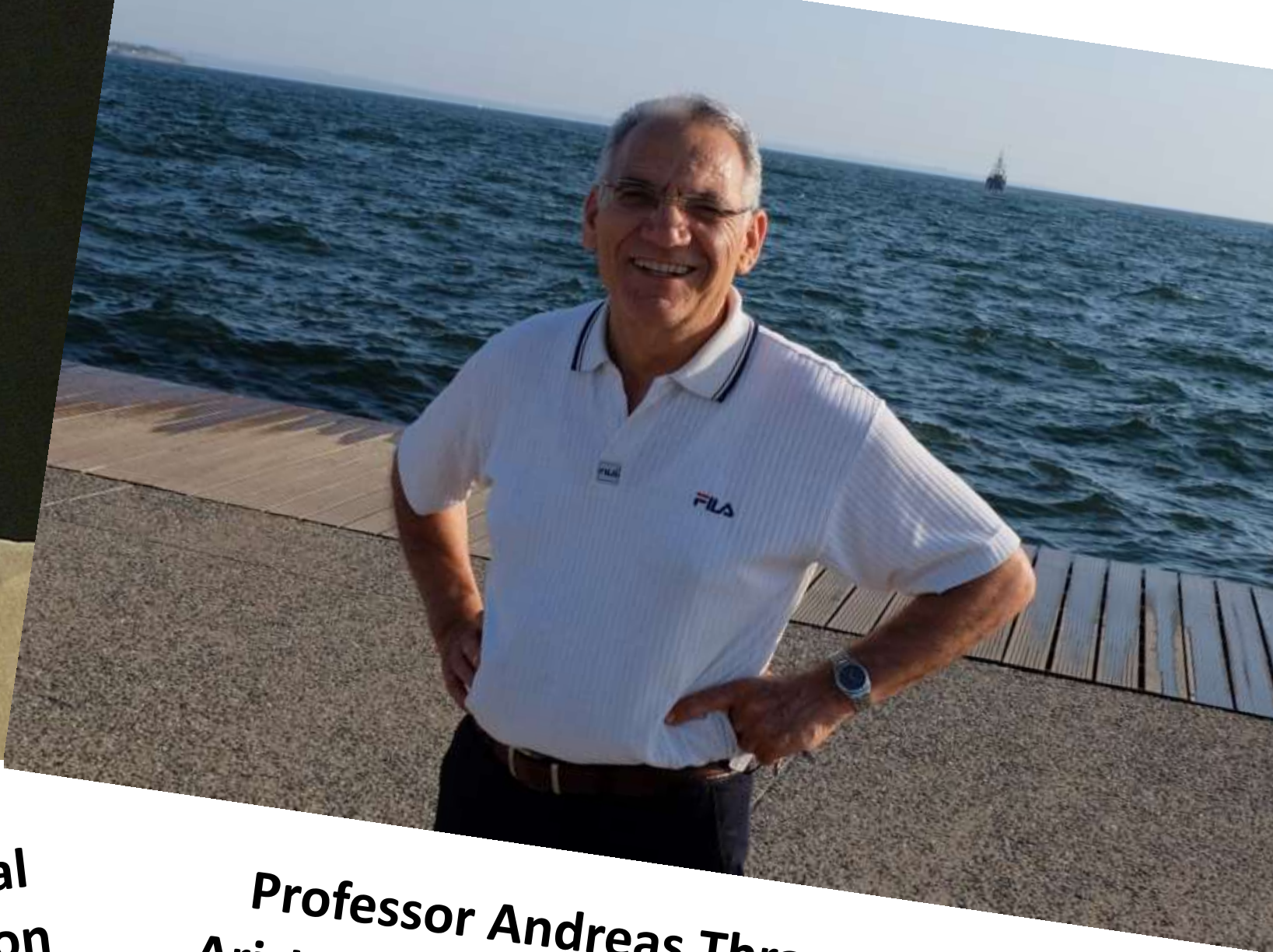
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- imenovanim članovima Povjerenstva
 - pismohrana, ovlašten





Walter Haefeker
European Professional
Beekeepers Association



Professor Andreas Thrasyvolou
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

drazen.lusic@medri.uniri.hr



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