



## **BBKA Statement**

### ***Update on European Court of Justice ruling on honey containing pollen from a Genetically Modified Organism.***

A meeting of the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health was held on 22 September. In order to ensure that beekeepers' interests were represented at that meeting, the BBKA sent two delegates to an earlier meeting held between UK Government bodies and other interested parties to consider the UK's approach.

After the Commission meeting on 22 September, the UK Government representatives gave us the following feedback:

*The Commission reported that it is currently analysing the many potential implications of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling and it will review the issues with a wide range of interested parties over the next few weeks. The situation will be discussed again with Member States at the end of October.*

*The Commission reminded the meeting that the ruling is complex and the implications wide. The consensus was that the ECJ ruling does not reflect the original intention of the legislation and creates inconsistencies between the Honey Directive and other legislation. Ultimately this seems to require changes to the legal text which will require the full EU legislative process to follow its course and consequently will take some time.*

*In the meantime the UK will continue to search for practical and proportionate solutions that will minimise any disruption in the supply of safe and properly labelled products.*

The BBKA will continue to monitor the situation and to represent the interests of beekeepers. Any updates will be posted on the BBKA website.

26 September 2011

