

27 February 2018

Letter to MEPs ahead of plenary vote on "Prospects and Challenges of the Apiculture Sector"

Dear MEP

ISSUE

In the upcoming Plenary, two amendments have been added to the Norbert Erdos report "Prospects and Challenges of the Apiculture Sector". We urge you to reject amendment 2 (40a) which ***"Calls on the Commission to propose legislation banning the production, sale and use of all neonicotinoid-based pesticides throughout the EU, with no derogations and as a priority measure, in order to protect bee populations"***

WHY SHOULD YOU REJECT THIS AMENDMENT?

- In 2013, restrictions were imposed on 3 neonicotinoids for bee-attractive crops. We still believe that the basis on which these restrictions were put in place is flawed;
- Since then there is no additional evidence to demonstrate that these restrictions should be increased, or that the restrictions have had any impact on the bee population in Europe. Decisions to ban any product should be based on evidence;
- A JRC survey conducted in 8 EU Member States stated that the alternatives the farmers turned to were much less effective than neonicotinoids. Several Member States have granted emergency derogations to their farmers in the absence of viable alternatives;
- Farmers need access to a broad range of tools to protect their crops from pests and diseases. The competitiveness of arable farmers in the EU relies on access to crop protection products like neonicotinoids. A more limited range of tools also increases the risk of pests developing resistance;
- The current neonicotinoid restrictions have had negative implications for the environment and biodiversity, notably through increased Green House Gas emissions, extended land use, and the estimated additional use of 1.4 million m³ of water globally;
- The Oilseed rape industry alone has lost around 912,000 tons of oilseed rape yield per year, which equates to approximately 900 million euros of production value annually;
- Without access to neonicotinoids the EU will quickly become a net importer of maize, wheat and other staple crops; and
- Further information on the impact of neonicotinoid restrictions can be found [here](#).

The Crop Protection Industry understands the importance of bees and other pollinators and the role they play in European agriculture. Our Industry is supportive of dialogue and initiatives between the various stakeholders on the issue of bee health such as EFSA's Bee Partnership Platform which focuses on the collection and sharing of data on bee health. In addition, ECPA and our companies are involved in numerous stewardship projects that aim to train farmers and operators in the safe and proper use of plant protection products.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Kind regards

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