

Press Release

European Beekeeping Sector Holds its Breath as Member States will Vote on Neonicotinoids Ban 27 April



**BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination
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The EU Member States will vote on the 27th of April on extending restrictions on neonicotinoids to all open air uses. Following the proposal by the European Commission, on which it has deemed that three active substances (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) "[can no longer be considered safe due to the identified risks for bees](#)".

The [Save the Bees Coalition](#) has been advocating to help achieve a further ban on bee-killing insecticides, neonicotinoids. Backed up by overwhelming evidence, and with confirmation of the risk they pose to bees by the European Food Safety Authority, the Coalition (and its members, including BeeLife) has insisted on the need to restrict all open air uses of neonicotinoids. It now seems that the neonicotinoids story might be close to a conclusion. The Coalition [met with Jean Claude Juncker's cabinet](#), who assured the Commission's commitment to helping improve bees' environmental conditions. Proof of such determination is the scheduled vote on the 27th of April.

[The scientific review by the EFSA](#) has set the wheels in motion, and there is no going back. It is now time for Member States to take a step and ensure neonicotinoids no longer threaten pollinators. BeeLife's president, Francesco Panella, remarked that "on April 27th, the European Community must and can end this biocide. We cannot continue to differ. Decency, food sovereignty of the EU and the credibility of public authorities in defence of the health of citizens and the environment are at stake. If a part of the Member States imposes once more on Europe not to decide, what lies behind certain 'national sovereignty' will be clear: total subordination to the powerful private interests and a demonstration of the power of supranational agrochemicals."

Beekeepers expect Member States vote to extend the ban, hoping to see coherence throughout the European institutions, taking into account recent events in the European Parliament. The next day after the EFSA published their scientific review on three active neonicotinoid substances on February 28, the European Parliament voted almost unanimously to adopt the Erdős report on beekeeping. The report includes recommended actions to ban pollinator-harming pesticides.

The EFSA conclusions point towards the need for an extended ban. "For all the outdoor uses of these substances, there was at least one aspect of the assessment indicating a high risk, leading to the conclusion that overall these neonicotinoids represent a risk to bees". The ball is in the court of Member States, and they are holding the possibility to help save the bees and improve the conditions for all pollinators.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination is an association formed by professionals of the beekeeping sector from different countries of the European Union. Its main activity is the study of the impact on bees of environmental threats such as pesticides or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

BeeLife works for the protection of bees based on the principle that 'bees serve as the canary in the gold mine', sounding the alarm that something is 'wrong in the environment'. Not least, bees create 30% of all our food by pollinating fruits, vegetables and arable crops such as sunflower and oilseed rape, having an inherent value that the Coordination is working to protect.