



Mr Jean-Claude Juncker

President of the European Commission

Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis

Commissioner on Health and Food Safety

Brussels, 20 March 2018

Subject: Regarding the session of the Committee PAFF on Neonicotinoids

Dear President Juncker,

Dear Commissioner Andriukaitis,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to you regarding the upcoming session of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed scheduled for 22/23 March. We are very concerned that the outcome of the session will be yet another delay in voting on the urgent matter of comprehensive restrictions on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Bees and other pollinators and beneficial insects are a crucial part of a well-functioning agricultural system and a vital part of our food production. There is a strong evidence-based scientific consensus that neonicotinoids, a group of systemic pesticides affecting the central nervous system of insects, pose a risk specifically to honey bees and other pollinators.

Therefore, the undersigned Members emphasise the importance of last years' [proposal](#) by the European Commission to extend the partial ban on three neonicotinoid pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) to all open field crops. The proposal was expected to be voted on in May 2017. But Member States asked to postpone the vote in order to be able to comment on the conclusions of EFSA's risk assessment of the above mentioned three substances.

After some delay, EFSA completed their risk assessment and published the conclusions on 28th of February 2018, [stating](#) that "**most uses of neonicotinoid pesticides represent a risk to wild bees and honeybees**".

The following day, 1st March 2018, the European Parliament voted almost unanimously to support the Erdős report on beekeeping, that called "on the Commission and the Member States to act on the established scientific consensus and ban those pesticide active substances, including those neonicotinoids and those systemic insecticides which are scientifically proven (...) to be dangerous to bee health".



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On 22nd and 23rd of March, the PAFF Committee will meet again. A political decision can now be made based on the most recent science as published by EFSA. There is serious indication that the Commission might not submit its proposals for a vote and that the decision might be postponed again due to the absence of the necessary qualified majority.

Further delay in taking the decision will result in continued exposure of bees and other pollinators to toxins that kill them, with severe consequences for food production, particularly honey.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge the Commission to ***do its utmost to convince Member States' representatives in order to obtain a qualified majority in favour of its original proposal*** the Commission's proposals at the PAFF Meeting on 22nd – 23rd of March.

And **we urge all Member States, in particularly those which are blocking the proposal for the banning, to take their responsibilities and support the European Commission's proposal without any further delay.**

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Waitz, MEP (Greens/EFA, Die Grünen AT)

For the Greens/EFA

MEP Marco Affronte

MEP Margrete Auken

MEP José Bové

MEP Reinhard Bütikofer

MEP Michael Cramer

MEP Karima Delli

MEP Pascal Durand

MEP Bas Eickhout

MEP Rebecca Harms

MEP Martin Häusling

MEP Maria Heubuch

MEP Yannic Jadot

MEP Benedek Jávor



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MEP Barbara Lochbihler
MEP Florent Marcellesi
MEP Ana Miranda
MEP Michel Reimon
MEP Michèle Rivasi
MEP Molly Scott Cato
MEP Bart Staes
MEP Keith Taylor
MEP Helga Trüpel
MEP Claude Turmes
MEP Monika Vana

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MEP Martina Anderson
MEP Xabier Benito Ziluaga
MEP Lynn Boylan
MEP Matt Carthy
MEP Kostas Chrysogonos
MEP Javier Couso Permuy
MEP Jean-Paul Denanot
MEP Stefan Eck
MEP Anja Hazekamp
MEP Merja Kyllönen
MEP Patrick Le Hyarick
MEP Jiří Maštálka
MEP Liadh Ní Riada
MEP Younous Omarjee
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For EFDD

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For ECR

MEP Mark Demesmaeker

MEP Angel Dzhambazki

MEP Arne Gericke

MEP Helga Stevens

For ENF

Franz Obermayr

NI

MEP Rikke-Louise Karlsson

Cc: Member State Ministers for Environment