



2019/2803(RSP)

30.9.2019

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B9-00

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on EU Pollinators Initiative
(2019/2803(RSP))

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food
Safety

**European Parliament resolution on EU Pollinators Initiative
(2019/2803(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 2 February 2016 on the mid-term review of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy,
 - having regard to its resolution of 15 November 2017 on an Action Plan for nature, people and the economy,
 - having regard to the question to the Commission on the EU Pollinators Initiative (O-0000/2018 – B8-xxxx/2018),
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
 - having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, while a lot of research as regards the reasons for pollinator decline has already been done, the implementation of these findings leaves a lot to be desired;
- B. whereas, in order to adequately protect pollinators, the presence of pesticide residues in the habitat of pollinators will need to be strongly reduced;
- C. whereas neonicotinoid use has been linked to adverse ecological effects, including high risks to both domestic and wild bees, responsible for pollinating most crops worldwide;
- D. whereas, in April 2018, the Union agreed to fully ban outdoor use of imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam, known as neonicotinoids;
- E. whereas however, several Member States notified emergency derogations regarding the use of these neonicotinoids on their territory; whereas notifications of Member States regarding those emergency authorisations are often of very poor quality and are not made public;
- F. whereas, in 2013, EFSA updated the methodology for the assessment of risks posed by plant protection products to bees, taking into account not only chronic risks to honeybees but also adding risk assessment schemes for bumble bees and solitary bees; whereas this method was fully applied in the EFSA assessments with regard to three neonicotinoids;
- G. whereas, as Member States were unwilling to support the full bee guidance, the Commission proposed amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 on the uniform principles, but only for the assessment and decision-making with regard to acute toxicity to honeybees; whereas in July 2019, the Standing Committee of Plants,

Animals, Food and Feed adopted a positive opinion on that proposal;

- H. whereas connected pollinator habitats, such as buffer strips and grassy waterways, can contribute to erosion control;
- I. whereas using indigenous flowers is of particular importance for wild pollinators;
- J. whereas beekeepers in Europe provide pollination services almost entirely for free; whereas this is in stark contrast to other parts of the world, where the cost of pollination is consistent with other farm inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides;
- K. whereas this mostly gratuitous pollination service is only possible because the main revenue source for beekeepers is the sale of honey; whereas imports of adulterated honey threaten the economic basis of beekeeping in the EU;

General remarks

1. Recalls that Parliament specifically asked for an EU Pollinators Initiative in its resolution on the mid-term review of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy; therefore welcomes the Commission's initiative to protect pollinators;
2. Recognises that there are various positive elements in the Initiative in terms of setting strategic objectives and a set of actions to be taken by the EU and its Member States;
3. However, considers that the Initiative fails to sufficiently address the main root causes of pollinators' decline, which include land-use changes and loss of habitats, intensive agricultural management practices, plant protection products, diseases, climate change and invasive alien species; considers that the implementation of "Priority II: Tackling the causes of pollinator decline" is of the utmost urgency;
4. Considers that pollinators are an essential component of biodiversity and are indispensable for reproduction in many plant species;
5. Highlights the importance of adopting a holistic approach and of evaluating the impact of existing policy measures in order to effectively tackle the decline of pollinators in the Union;
6. Stresses the need to protect the diversity of pollinator species in Europe;
7. Stresses the importance of promoting measures to encourage biodiversity, given that pollinator health is fostered by access to a mixture of different pollen and plants;

Agriculture and the use of pesticides

8. Stresses that boosting biodiversity and thus fostering the occurrence of pollinators' habitats on the agricultural land must become a key aim in the development of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which must seek to reduce pesticide use;
9. Stresses that the reduction of pesticide use should therefore be set as a target in Member States' strategic plans, and pesticide reduction should be set as a 'common

indicator' with which to monitor success;

10. Stresses that according to the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (128/2009/EC), non-chemical methods of pest control should be used as a priority, to replace pesticides, with a view to protecting pollinators;
11. Calls on the Commission to propose legislation prohibiting the production, sale and use of all neonicotinoid-based pesticides throughout the Union without derogation;
12. Calls on the Commission to set detailed rules for and ensure a minimum standard of notifications on emergency authorisations of pesticides, including the need for Member States to provide complete and detailed explanations, and to make those notifications public;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Member States in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed to adopt without delay the updated bee guidance used by EFSA in its recent review of three neonicotinoids;
14. Underlines that 'controlled pollination' could help restore harmony between beekeepers and farmers and significantly increase crop yields;
15. Calls on the Commission to include in the objectives of the CAP limits to the objective of increasing productivity and to regulate intensive farming practices, in order to improve the habitat and forage space for bees;
16. Calls on the Commission and Member States to promote the concept of buffer strips and grassy/ flowering waterways with a view to provide both better erosion control as well as perennial flowering areas as foraging opportunity and habitat for pollinators;
17. Calls on the Commission and Member States to support the beekeeping sector by reinforcing import inspections in order to avoid imports of adulterated honey;

Research, training and surveillance

18. Concerning bees, insists in particular on the role of research on the causes of the reduction in the life expectancy of queen bees, which is a worrying phenomenon;
19. Calls for more funds for research and for the monitoring of wild pollinators;
20. Considers it appropriate to support the development of low-risk pesticides that are harmless to pollinators;
21. Calls for support for training of beekeepers to promote a non-intrusive Union surveillance of bees through the development of indicators of colony vitality;

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22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.