



EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATORS - 5TH EDITION

Bees caring for Europeans. Europeans caring for bees?

13th - 17th June 2016
Brussels - European Parliament

Hosted by
MEP Mariya Gabriel
 Chair of the “Apiculture & Bee Health” working group of the EP Intergroup
 “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”

Since 2012, the European Week of Bees and Pollinators takes place annually in the European Parliament offering the opportunity for stakeholders to meet and exchange views. Representatives of the European institutions, national institutions, of the beekeeping sector, farmers, NGOs, Scientifics from all fields related to bees and biodiversity gather to discuss the current challenges and formulate recommendations to be addressed to policy makers. The European Week of Bees and Pollinators also aims at raising awareness and keeping bee health and the beekeeping sector on the European agenda.

This Fifth edition of the European Week of Bees and Pollinators will aim at reminding the crucial and irreplaceable role played by bees and pollinators for the conservation of biodiversity and preservation of the environment suitable for human life and activities. The continued decrease of bee population and the difficulties faced by the beekeeping sector remain very worrying. Bees are providing invaluable services to Europeans, including by contributing to food security both in quantitative and qualitative terms. The question that remains is what are Europeans doing for bees? The international conference will point out the gaps and missing elements in European policies and tools to protect bees and pollinators and in definitive their own quality of life and health. The panels will also open the discussion on specific issues such as pesticides, the evaluation of the new Common Agricultural Policy impact after two years of implementation by Member States and the question of labelling and traceability.





Programme of the Fifth edition of the EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATORS

Monday, 13th of June

- **Scientific Symposium** at the University of Gembloux
- **Beekeepers and farmers Forum** at the European Parliament

Tuesday, 14th of June

International conference at the European Parliament

09.00 - 10.00: *Inauguration of the Bee Village on the Esplanade of the European Parliament*

- Inauguration in presence of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Mrs Mairead McGuinness, Vice-President of the European Parliament

10.00 - 11.00: *Opening session of the International Conference*

- Welcoming and introduction by **MEP Mariya Gabriel**, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable development, Chair of the Working Group on Apiculture and Bee Health
- **Keynote address by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco**
- Opening address by **Mr. Phil Hogan, European Commissioner** for Agriculture and Rural Development (tbc)
- Opening address by **Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director** and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (tbc)
- Opening address by **Mr. Philip McCabe**, President of **Apimondia**
- Opening address by **Mr. Pekka Pesonen**, Secretary General of the **Copa Cogeca**
- Opening address by **Mr. Gaston Franco, former MEP** and founder of the European Week of Bees and Pollinators



11.00 - 13.00:

PANEL I - BEES CARING FOR EUROPEANS

The first panel will evidence or remind the extraordinary contribution made by pollinators to our food security, not only in quantitative but also qualitative (nutritional) terms. Moreover, the bee is a very good bio-indicator of the quality of the agricultural environment. However, bee mortality and the decline of bee and pollinator populations, due to different factors, threaten in the medium and long term our food security and health. The discussion will also bring panellists and participants to address the balance to be found between an agricultural model matching needs in the short term, but also guaranteeing the food security and health of Europeans in the longer run, by preserving bee health.

Chaired by MEP Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI, Chair of the AGRI Committee

Report from the Beekeepers and farmers Forum held on the 13th of June - Etienne Bruneau Chairman of the Copa Cogeca Working Party on Honey

1) Pollinators contribution to food security and Europeans' health

- Food and nutrition security - role of pollination in enhancing food production - ecological intensification.

2) A new agricultural model, the missing element?

*- Impact of pesticides - bioaccumulation: EU state of play on neonicotinoids ban; chronic effect of pesticides.
- Collaborative models: what cooperation between beekeepers and farmers?*

15.00 - 17.00:

PANEL II - EUROPEANS CARING FOR BEES?

The second panel will aim at identifying and coordinating both the sectorial and transversal actions to be undertaken in order to protect bees and pollinators. A state of play will be made about the beekeeping sector, from the economic point of view, wondering which leverages could be used to make it a profitable and attractive sector taking as well into account the traceability and competition with foreign beehive products. Moreover, the panellist will consider the results of the national programmes in favour of bees and beekeepers within the new Common Agricultural Policy. Then the panel will consider the use of transversal policies such as the biodiversity, climate change and research policies.

Chaired by MEP Alojz PETERLE

Report from the Scientific Symposium held on the 13th of June at the University of Gembloux

1) What support for European beekeepers?

*- Results of the new CAP, attractiveness of the beekeeping sector including for youth
- Traceability and prevent competition with non-EU beehive products ('Chinese honey')
- Beekeepers' access to updated information and training, local breeding of queen bees*

2) Biodiversity conservation, climate change and research policies as leverage



- *State of play of the integration of pollinators in biodiversity policies (Global assessment of pollinators)*
- *Impact of climate change on bee population in the medium and long term*
- *Role of research and development*

17.00 - 18.00: ***Conclusive session***

MEP Mariya GABRIEL, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable development, Chair of the Working Group on Apiculture and Bee Health

18.00 - 19.00: ***Cocktail reception hosted by Members of the Working Group on Apiculture and Bee Health***

Wednesday, 15th of June

18.00 - 20.00 : ***Movie screening in the European Parliament***

Thursday, 16th of June

- Activities and presentations at the Bee Village