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The Secrétariat

COPA-COGECA

Rue de Trèves 61

1040 Bruxelles

The General Assembly of Apislatvia gathered on 14-16 October 2009 in the Czech Republic appreciates the engagement of numerous state parliaments and governments in saving bees from extinction. We fully support the stand of the European Parliament of 20 November 2008 and the requirements formulated by the COPA/COGECA Committees Working Group „Honey” of 27 April 2009.

Unanimous in our decision, we file for:

1. Restrictions in maximum mortality level of bee families and compensation of losses in the incomes of beekeepers' resulting from pesticide treatment in plant protection through:
 - a) taking under consideration special characteristics of bees in tests related to pesticide treatments according to the Directive 91/414/CEE,
 - b) introduction of precautions, aimed at protection of bees from contact with active substances in pesticides, which may negatively influence the development and productivity of bee families during the apiarian season.
2. Introduction of special intervention programs in case of factors independent from beekeepers, causing excessive mortality of bee families.
3. Enduring local variety of bees in equilibrium with their environment.
4. Increase of variety and accessibility of veterinary medicine for bees.
5. Development and introduction of unified monitoring programs of the decrease in bee family populations.
6. Maintenance of high quality of honey, through:
 - a) strengthening quality control of honey on the state borders,
 - b) facilitating internal control in order to avoid commercialize combined honeys,
 - c) promotion of honeys with special properties for some types and geographic origin, through amendment of the currently binding Directive (COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2001/110/EC) or through the introduction of new quality marks,
 - d) legitimating other bee products such as: pollen, propolis, wax, bee milk, through defining these products, with regard to both their botanical origins and physical properties as well as chemical constitution and specific biological characteristics,
 - e) introducing research on the usability or harmfulness of GMO plants for bees,
 - f) making the research available and continue the research on the influence of pollen and bee bread, GMO plants on the vivacity of bees, their health.
7. Maintenance of a proper number of bee families ensuring proper pollination of plants through:
 - a) trainings for beekeepers aimed at rapid adjustment to new environmental and economic conditions,
 - b) establishment of mechanisms encouraging to lead a wandering culture,

- c) maintenance of a rich and varied flora through taking into account bees and biodiversity within the framework of agriculture and environmental programs,
 - d) increase of bee foraging area through the development of wide scale crops of honey plants e.g. oil plants and protein plants, in order to increase the profitability of agricultural holdings.
8. Secure rentability of beekeeping through:
- a) structuring beekeeping at the level of trade structures e.g. establishing associations,
 - b) maintenance of high quality of beekeeping products (honey and other beekeeping products) within the framework of support mechanisms for the beekeeping industry (WPR) e.g. increase of financial means dedicated to honey analysis,
 - c) promotion and maintenance of a good reputation of bee products,
 - d) integration of beekeeping on the European level within the framework of Common Agricultural Policy.
9. Optimization of all instruments and a holistic approach to beekeeping support within the European program of beekeeping support WPR through:
- a) increase of the budget,
 - b) establishment of current trends which should be covered by support from the program e.g.: monitoring of decrease of bee family populations, analysis of the causes, restoration of bee population,
 - c) withholding or abandoning taxation of beekeeping for beekeepers who conduct their activities with regard to up to 150 bee families,
 - d) implementation of Good Production Practice Codes in Beekeeping.

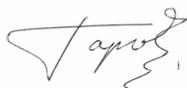
It is of utmost importance to discuss the suggestions with beekeepers' groups when changing the regulations in agricultural policy of the EU for 2014-2020 and to take under consideration the need for compensation for beekeepers for the serviant role of pollinator in the amount not lower than 30 euro for one bee family.

We would also like to file for making the Member States responsible for establishing and implementing state programs saving the population of bees and encouraging young people to involve in beekeeping.

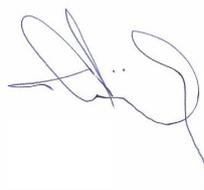
In our opinion only common actions will allow to stop the extinction of bees and after years of work the restoration of European bee population will be achieved. We are ready for cooperation and we hope for cooperation and engagement of all who care about the population of bees and benefit from it. We would like to address the Ministers of Agriculture of the EU Member States and the remaining Ministers of Agriculture of Apislavia member states to direct their special attention to various ways for saving bees.

Att.:

- 1. EU Member States Beekeeping Associations
- 2. Apislavia Members Beekeeping Associations



Juraj Toporcak
Secretary General



Stefan Stefanov
President

Handled by Secretary General: J. Toporcak