

Open letter to State Departments and International Organizations

European Parliament - Jerzy Buzek

European Commission - Mr. José Manuel Barroso

Development of Agriculture and Rural - Mariann Fischer Boel

COPA / COGECA

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF SLOVAKIA
STATE SECRETARY**

Ministerstvo pôdohospodárstva SR

Ján Slabý

Štátny tajomník

Dobrovičova 12

812 66 Bratislava

APIMONDIA

The President

Gilles Ratia

Le Terrier

F-24420 Coulaures - France

MINISTERIUM OF AGRICULTURE EC

AUSTRIA

Minister of Agriculture

Niki Berlakovich

Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft,

Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft

Stubenring 1

A-1012 Wien

REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

BELGIUM

Minister of Agriculture

Minister des PME, des Indépendants, de l'Agriculture et de la Politique scientifique
Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 87
B-1060 Bruxelles
BELGIQUE

BULGARIA

Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Miroslav Hristoforov NAYDENOV
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
55 Hristo Botev blvd.
1040 Sofia
BULGARIA

CYPRUS

Minister of Agriculture

Michalis Polyniki CHARALAMPIDES
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
Loukis Akritas Ave.,
1411 Lefkosia (Nicosia)
CYPRUS

CZECH REPUBLIC

Minister of Agriculture

Ing. Jakub Šebesta
Ministry of Agriculture
Těšnov 17
11705 Prague 1
CZECH REPUBLIC

DENMARK

Minister of Agriculture

Eva Kjer HANSEN
Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Slotsholmsgade 12
DK – 1260 Copenhagen V
DENMARK

ESTONIA

Minister of Agriculture

Helir-Valdor Seeder
Ministry of Agriculture
Lai tn 39/41
15056 Tallinn
ESTONIA

FINLAND

Minister of Agriculture

Sirkka Liisa Anttila
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 30,
FI-00023 GOVERNMENT
Helsinki
FINLAND

FRANCE

Minister of Agriculture

Bruno Le Maire
Minister de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche
78,rue de Varenne
75349 Paris 07 SP
FRANCE

GREECE

Minister of Agriculture

Katerina Batzeli
Ministry of Rural Development and Food
2-6 Acharnon str.
104 38 Athens
GREECE

SPAIN

Minister of Agriculture

Elena Espinosa Mangana
Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Environment
Paseo Infanta Isabel,1
28071 Madrid
SPAIN

IRELAND

Minister of Agriculture

Brendan Smith
Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

LITHUANIA

Minister of Agriculture

Kazys Starkevicius
Ministry of Agriculture
Gedimino av. 19 (Lelevelio6)
LT-01103 Vilnius
LITHUANIA

LUXEMBOURG

Minister of Agriculture

Romain Schneider
Minister de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture et du Développement Rural
1, rue de la Congrégation
L - 1352
LUXEMBOURG

LATVIA

Minister of Agriculture

Jais Dulavs
Ministry of Agriculture
Republikas Laukums 2
Riga, LV 1981
LATVIA

MALTA

Minister of Agriculture

George PULLICINO
Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Barriera Wharf
Valletta VLT 1970
MALTA

NETHERLANDS

Minister of Agriculture

Gerritje Verburg
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
P.O. BOX 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
THE NETHERLANDS

GERMANY

Minister of Agriculture

Ilse Aigner
Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz,

Wilhelmstraße 54
11055 Berlin
BUNDES REPUBLIC DEUTSCHLAND

PORTUGAL

Minister of Agriculture

Mr. António Manuel Soares Serrano
Ministry for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
Praca do Comercio
1149-010 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

ROMANIA

Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Radu BERCEANU
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests
and Rural Development
B-dul Carol I, nr 24,
Sector 3 -20921 Bucharest
ROMANIA

SLOVAKIA

Minister of Agriculture

Ing. Vladimír Chovan
Ministry of Agriculture
Dobrovičova 12
812 66 Bratislava
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

SLOVENIA

Minister of Agriculture

Prof Dr Milan Pogačnik
Ministry of Agriculture , Forestry and Food
Dunajska 58
1000 Ljubljana
SLOVENIA

SWEDEN

Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Eskil Erlandsson
Ministry for Agriculture, Food
and Consumer Affairs
SE-103 33 Stockholm
SWEDEN

HUNGARY

Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Torgyán József
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Kossuth Lajos tér 11
1860 Budapest
HUNGARY

UNITED KINGDOM

Minister of State – Jim Fitzpatrick MP

Minister for Food, Farming and Environment
Department for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
UNITED KINGDOM

ITALY

Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Luca ZAIA
Ministry for Agricultural Policy and Forestry
Via XX Settembre 20
00187 Roma
ITALY

MINISTERIUM OF AGRICULTURE non EC

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Minister of Agriculture

Shapiro Simon B.
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Products
15, Kirova Str.
Minsk, 220050
Republic of Belarus

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Minister of Agriculture

Скрынник Елена Борисовна
Ministry of Agriculture
Orlikov lane, 1 / 11
17139, Moscow
Russia

UKRAINE

Minister of Agriculture
Melnik Yuriy Fedorovych
MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN POLICY
24, Khreshchatyk str.
01001Kyiv
Ukraine

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Ministry of Agriculture
Anatolie Gorodenco
Bul. Stefan cel Mare 162
C.P. 1873
2004 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova

SERBIA

Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. Sasa Dragin
Nemanjina 22-26
11000 Beograd
Serbia

CROATIA

Ministry of Agriculture
Petar Čobanković
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ
ПЧЕЛОВОДЧЕСКИХ
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ
"АПИСЛАВИЯ"



FEDERATION OF THE
EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING
ORGANIZATIONS
"APISLAVIA"

Республика Словакия, 842 08 Братислава 4
ул.Сврча, № 14, факс: +421 2 654 20 303,
тел.: +421 2 654 21 460, 654 27 944

Republic Slovakia, 842 08 Bratislava 4
Street. Svrca, №14, Fax: 421 2 654 20 303,
Ph.: 421 2 654 21 460, 654 27 944

Mr. José Manuel Barroso
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

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.

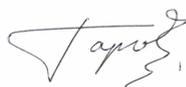
It is of utmost importance to discuss the suggestions with beekeepers' groups when changing the regulations in agricultural policy of the EU for 2014-2020 and to take under consideration the need for compensation for beekeepers for the serviant role of pollinator in the amount not lower than 30 euro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

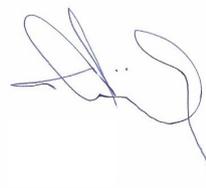
In our opinion only common actions will allow to stop the extinction of bees and after years of work the restoration of European bee population will be achieved. We are ready for cooperation and we hope for cooperation and engagement of all who care about the population of bees and benefit from it. We 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 and Polski Związek Pszczelarski Prezydent Tadeusz Sabat