

President Jean-Claude Juncker
European Commission
Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Letter sent by e-mail only

16 March 2018

Concerning: Ban neonicotinoids without further delay

Dear Commission President Juncker,
Cc Commissioner Andriukaitis,
Cc Secretary-General Selmayr,

In March 2017, your Commission presented a plan to extend the existing restrictions on three neonicotinoid insecticides (imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam) due to the risks they pose to bees. We welcomed these proposals to ban all outdoor uses as "[great news for bees](#)".

Now, a year later, Member States have yet to vote on these proposals. A vote planned in December was cancelled after many delegations said they wanted to wait for a new EFSA evaluation of the science.

EFSA published this evaluation on 28 February. It confirms that the three chemicals threaten both managed and wild bees and that the restrictions imposed in 2013 are insufficient to control these risks. A Commission spokesperson [acknowledged](#) that the EFSA report was "strengthening the scientific basis for the Commission's proposal to ban outdoor uses of the three neonicotinoids".

However, a recently published [agenda](#) for the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Phytopharmaceuticals on 22-23 March shows that the Commission services are not planning to submit the proposals for a vote. Not even a discussion of the proposals is planned. Rather, the services aim to only discuss the latest EFSA reports.

One year after the presentation of the proposals and with eight EFSA reports showing that the current EU restrictions are insufficient to control the risk, there is no more reason to wait. The scientific evidence shows that maintaining these insecticides on the market is unlawful.

As President of the European Commission, we respectfully ask you to use your power to make sure that these pesticides are banned without further delay, in line with EU regulations.

We urge you to finally put these proposals to vote at the Standing Committee meeting of 22-23 March. Eleven EU Member States are already in support, including France, the UK, Ireland, Croatia, Slovenia, Luxembourg and Malta. Once a vote is planned, it is likely that more countries will come on board.

Bees and other pollinators remain under threat in Europe. While pesticides are one of multiple factors to blame, the elimination of these chemicals from the environment is a crucial, achievable and effective first step to protect their health and the crucial role they play in our natural ecosystems.

We are counting on you to be the “friend of the bees” you have [reportedly](#) declared to be.

Yours sincerely,



Jorgo Riss,
Director, Greenpeace European Unit

Also on behalf of:

International organisations

Avaaz
Apiservices - International Beekeeping Development
BeeLife - European Beekeeping Coordination
Compassion in World Farming
European Environmental Bureau
European Professional Beekeeping Association
Friends of the Earth
Gemeinschaft der europäischen Buckfastimker
Slow Food
Earth Thrive
Pesticide Action Network Europe
Women Engage for a Common Future

National, regional and local organisations

Apicultural Research Education Center. Greece
Asociación Española de Apicultores, Spain
Aurelia Stiftung, Germany
Bayrischer Bienenzüchter-Verband, Germany
Bee Garden, Spain
BUND, Germany
Bijensterichting, Netherlands

Bioland, Germany
Bio-Lëtzebuerg Vereenegung fir Bio-Landwirtschaft, Luxembourg
Campact, Germany
Cari, Belgium
Deutscher Berufs und Erwebs Imker Bund, Germany
ECOCITY, Greece
Ecological Council, Denmark
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
Europe and We, Bulgaria
Federation of Irish Beekeeping Associations, Ireland
Fédération SEPANSO Aquitaine, France
Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica, Italy
Fundación Amigos de las Abejas, Spain
German Panel of Demeter Beekeepers, Germany
Global 2000, Austria
La Colmena Feliz, Spain
Latvian Fund for Nature, Latvia
Mellifera, Germany
Meng Landwirtschaft, Luxembourg
Mouvement Écologique, Luxembourg
natur&emwelt, Luxembourg
Association for Organic Beekeeping, Bulgaria
Pestizid Aktions-Netzwerk, Germany
Pollinis, France
Proyecto Gran Simio, Spain
RedMontañas, Spain
ROMAPIS - Romanian Federation of Beekeeping Associations
Som fir d'Erhalen an d' Entwécklung vun der Diversitéit, Luxembourg
SOS Faim. Luxembourg
SOS polinizadores, Spain
Syndicat National de l'Apiculture, France
The Pollinators, Netherlands
Via Pontica Foundation, Bulgaria
Umweltinstitut München, Germany
UNIÓ DE LLAURADORS. Spain
Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française ; france
Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani, Italy
Wild Bee, Switzerland
Vilde bier, Denmark

Enclosure: Overview of EFSA reports since 2013



Pesticide Action Network Europe



Friends of the Earth Europe



EEB European Environmental Bureau

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PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK



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The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations



wildBee. Wir schützen Wildbienen. Nous protégeons les abeilles sauvages. Proteggiamo le api selvatiche. We protect native bees.



La Colmena Feliz



UNAAPI Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani



German Panel of Demeter-Beekeepers

LA UNIO DE LLAURODORS I RAMADERS



Fundación Amigos de las Abejas



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der europäischen Buckfastiner Gemeinschaft



Bioland



SOS polinizadores



DEUTSCHER BERUFS- UND ERWERBS IMKERBUND SOLTAU 1928

EFSA reports on the risk of three neonicotinoid pesticides to bees

EFSA, 2018, [Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance imidacloprid considering the uses as seed treatments and granules](#)

EFSA, 2018, [Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance clothianidin considering the uses as seed treatments and granules](#)

EFSA, 2018, [Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance thiamethoxam considering the uses as seed treatments and granules](#)

EFSA, 2016, [Peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for the active substance imidacloprid in light of confirmatory data submitted](#),

EFSA, 2016, [Peer reviews of the pesticide risk assessment for the active substance clothianidin in light of confirmatory data submitted](#).

EFSA, 2015, [Conclusions on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substances imidacloprid considering all uses other than seed treatments and granules](#)

EFSA, 2015, [Conclusions on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substances clothianidin considering all uses other than seed treatments and granules](#)

EFSA, 2015, [Conclusion on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance thiamethoxam considering all uses other than seed treatments and granules](#)