

Amend on Paragraph 22 *new* of the INI Report on Prospects and challenges for the EU apiculture sector (2017/2115(INI))

Rapporteur Norbert Erdős
Amend § 22 new

“Calls on the European Commission and Member States to put in place measures to increase legal protection and financial support for local honey bee ecotypes and populations throughout the European Union, including by way of legally protected locally endemic honeybee conservation areas”

JUSTIFICATION:

The importance of protecting local bees throughout Europe is being recognized by all citizens and scientific actors who are looking into the issue. Indeed, multiple factors are destroying bee colonies around the world today, but local breeds are also facing the massive importation of other subspecies of bees that cause uncontrolled hybridization. They hybridize local bee populations that are gradually losing their specific morphological, physiological and behavioural characteristics, shaped over the millennia that allowed them to adapt optimally to their environments.

In Europe there are about ten different subspecies or geographical races. For the last several decades, more than 40 associations all over Europe have been working on the conservation of bees, which must be preserved for the common good of everyone, including beekeepers.

Several measures have already been partially implemented within the European Union. It is essential to urgently create a legal framework to harmonize the protection of bees that is effective and unchanging.