

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



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German Panel of Demeter-Beekeepers

LA UNIO DE LLAURODORS I RAMADERS



Fundación Amigos de las Abejas



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## 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](#)