

**Ms Stella Kyriakides**

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Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Commission européenne

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*By email and registered letter*

To : Ms Ursula Von der Leyen, President  
Ms Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety  
Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment  
Ms Sandra Gallina, Director General – DG Sante  
Mr Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General – Legal Service

**Subject : Access to SCoPAFF documents on 2013 EFSA Bee Guidance Document – Execution of judgement of the General Court T-554/20 & T-371/20**

26 September 2022

Dear President Von der Leyen, dear Commissioners, dear Director-Generals,

By judgement of 14 September 2022, the General Court annulled the Commission's refusal to grant POLLINIS access to 78 documents concerning the 2013 EFSA Guidance Document on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees – including correspondence within the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) containing the individual positions of certain Member States on that guidance document.

After careful examination, the Court rejected all of the Commission's arguments according to which disclosure of the requested documents would undermine its decision-making process.

As you are well aware, the 2013 EFSA Bee Guidance Document set out scientific protocols so as to properly assess, prior to their putting on the market, the toxicity of pesticides and their effects on bees. As such, this document was crucial for pollinator protection and for halting biodiversity loss. In spite of this, the adoption of the EFSA Bee Guidance Document has been blocked for many years, due to the absence of agreement among Member States representatives in the SCoPAFF – a process that took place out of the public eye during all those years.

As ruled by the Court, **transparency and public access to the committee's internal documents do not harm the decision-making process. On the contrary, the widest public access to those documents contributes to its proper functioning.**

Access to the requested documents would enable EU citizens not only to understand why some Member States opposed the adoption of the 2013 Bee Guidance Document but also **to ascertain that the SCoPAFF acts for the public good and has not been captured by vested interests**. It would help ensure the credibility of the actions of the Commission and of its committees in the minds of citizens and concerned organisations.

**In the interest of transparency and democracy and in accordance with Article 266 TFEU and Article 60 of the Statute of the Court of Justice, we respectfully request the Commission, as guardian of EU law, to abide by the ruling of the General Court and to grant POLLINIS immediate access to all 78 documents requested.**

Sincerely yours,

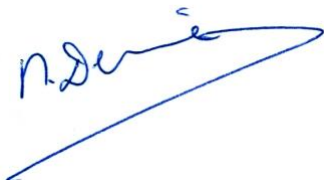
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