

November 16, 2011 



On November 16, only one year on from its [previous resolution](#) in autumn 2010, the European Parliament had a significant debate on the decline in bees and beekeeping, and finally [approved a Resolution](#)

that commits all the European institutions to protect the insects against the risk of extinction.

The Parliament officially recognised beekeeping as a "public environmental value and a strategic value for the society, a model of sustainable production for the rural areas, and a clear example of job creation in biodiversity conservation."

It is estimated that 84% of plant species and 76% of food production in Europe depends on pollination. The beekeeping industry is a source of income for more than 600 000 citizens.

"Pollination is a common good for all European agriculture, it can be preserved only with a common action made by all European States," said **Csaba**

Sándor Tabajdi

, author of the resolution which was adopted with 534 votes favor, 16 against and 92 abstentions.

The new Parliament Resolution identifies the following themes as urgent and necessary:

- Increased EU effort for research on veterinary care, and more flexible rules for making available more beekeeping veterinary products.
- **Activating and harmonising the national surveillance systems** with increased cooperation between Member States, laboratories, beekeepers, farmers and industry.
- **Avoid the antibiotics which can damage the quality of bee products** and which could create resistance phenomena.
- Reducing the **impact of toxic agents** such as pesticides in the environment.
- Establishing appropriate **national surveillance systems**, in close collaboration with beekeeping associations.
- Conducting objective research about the possible **adverse effects of OGM crops on bee health**
- Ensuring that imported bee products are obtained **only by health criteria** similar to those already in use in Europe to avoid the introduction of exotic diseases.



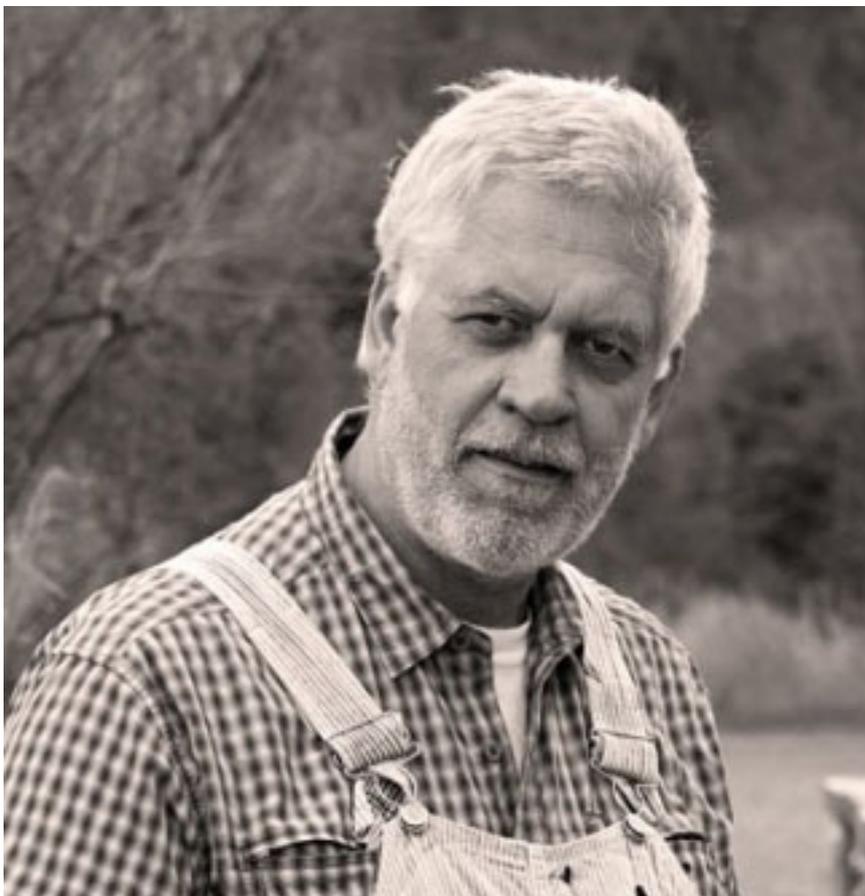
A substantial part of the parliament has also voted in favour of an [alternative amendmen](#)
[t](#) regarding the incautious
use of pesticides and GMOs in agriculture, There were,
however, not enough votes to approve the amendment

Michael Rivas, the Euro-MP from the Environment Committee, said,

"We can't ignore the real cause of the decline of hives. The scientific studies show the deadly impact of exposure even with a low dose of pesticides. Our actions must be further guided by precautionary principles.

The response necessary to tackle the bee crisis is to suspend intensive monoculture

"Francesco Panella, professional beekeeper and president of the Italian Beekeepers Association said:



"This result is important especially if we consider the strong pressure on the European Parliament by the chemical industry lobby .

When you give public research a chance to carry out its work without interference, as happened in Italy with the long-term project

Apenet

, we can observe how the

chemical products industry acts only in its own interests

. Even monoculture with the use of these 'chemical weapons' makes powerful and uncontrollable impacts on the environment.

It is scientifically proven that maize tanning preventatives kill bees, and once again it

was validated that the best practice for pest control in maize production is crop rotation. It is time re-evaluate the use of lethal systemic insecticides used on maize and other crops.

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Translated by Michele Valleri

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