



CONFERENCE  
AGENDA

EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 5TH EDITION

# Bees caring for Europeans. Europeans caring for bees?

Tuesday 14 June 2016

10.00-17:30

Room PHS 4B001

European Parliament, Brussels

Hosted by

**Mariya Gabriel MEP**

Chair of the "Apiculture & Bee Health" working group of the EP Intergroup  
*"Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development"*

and MEPs

Alojz Peterle, Franc Bogovič, Mairead McGuinness, Michel Dantin, Marijana Petir,  
Marc Tarabella, Eric Andrieu, Julie Girling, Nathalie Griesbeck,  
Maria Noichl, Jean-Paul Denanot, Marco Zullo



Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech  
Université de Liège



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Since 2012, the European Week of Bees and Pollination takes place annually in the European Parliament offering the opportunity for representatives of the European institutions, national institutions, the beekeeping sector, farmers, animal health specialists, NGOs, scientists, and industry from fields related to bees and biodiversity to meet to exchange views, discuss the current challenges and formulate recommendations to be addressed to policy makers.

The European Week of Bees and Pollination aims at highlighting the vital role of pollination with regards to food security, nutrition, ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation, and to bring these topics closer to European citizens.

Bees and pollinators provide invaluable services for Europeans, but the question still remains: what are Europeans doing for bees? Taking stock of the latest elements of European research, such as the [EFSA](#) Statistical analysis on the EPILOBEE dataset and the [IUCN](#) European Red List of Bees, this high-level conference will draw attention to the needs and challenges for European policies on how to protect pollinators. The panels will also open up the discussion on issues such as the development of animal health solutions, beekeeping practices, the sustainable use of pesticides, the labelling of and traceability of hive products, and the evaluation of the new Common Agricultural Policy.

## **OPENING SESSION - 10.00 - 11.00**

Welcome remarks by **Mariya Gabriel MEP**

Opening address by **Mr. Gaston Franco, former MEP and founder of the European Week of Bees and Pollination**

Opening address by **Mr. Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia**

Opening address by **Mr. Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of the Copa-Cogeca**

Opening address by **Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director-General ENVI, European Commission**

Keynote address by **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco**



## **Panel 1 – Pollination and Environmental Challenges**

**Co-Chaired by MEP Mairead McGuinness and MEP Michel Dantin**

The first panel will evidence or remind the extraordinary contribution made by pollination to our food security, not only in quantitative but also qualitative (nutritional) terms. Moreover, bees are a very good bio-indicator of the quality of our environment. However, the decline of bees' and pollinators' population, due to different factors, threatens in the medium and long term our food security and health. The environmental challenges such as climate change and the loss in biodiversity will be discussed, addressing the need to preserve bee health and find a balance between an agricultural model matching needs in the short term and guaranteeing the food security, biodiversity and ecosystem services for Europeans in the longer run.

- 11:00-11:05** Introductory remarks by **MEP Mairead McGuinness**
- 11:05-11:15** Food security and nutrition: The role of pollination in enhancing food production  
**Dr. Lucas Alejandro Garibaldi, Professor and Researcher, Universidad Nacional de Río Negro, Argentina**
- 11:15-11:25** Pollinators and biodiversity: EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020 and IPBES global assessment of pollinators  
**Laure Ledoux, Deputy Head of Unit "Biodiversity", DG ENVI, European Commission**
- 11:25-12:35** Sustainable feed production aimed towards food security and nutrition: inclusion of bees and pollinators  
**Eric Guillemot, Chair of European Lucerne producers, International Year of Pulses**
- 11:35-11:55** **Follow up questions by MEPs - Q&A with the audience**
- 11:55-12:05** Pollination and bee health: the crop protection industry perspective  
**Dr. Peter J. Campbell, Chair of Pollinator Steering Team, European Crop Protection Association – ECPA**
- 12:05-12:15** Report from the Scientific Symposium held at the University of Gembloux  
**Dr. Bach Kim Nguyen, University of Liège (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech), BeeOdiversity**
- 12:15-12:25** The impact of climate change on pollinators  
**Dr. Pierre Rasmont, Université de Mons**
- 12:25-12:35** Gaps in existing knowledge - How bees respond to environmental changes  
**Dr. Dirk de Graaf, Gent University**
- 12:35-12:55** **Follow up questions by MEPs - Q&A with the audience**
- 12:55-13:00** Closing remarks by **MEP Michel Dantin**



## **Panel 2 – BEEKEEPING-AGRICULTURE-SOCIETY: A SUSTAINABLE MODEL**

**Co-Chaired by MEP Franc Bogovič and MEP Alojz Peterle**

The second panel will aim at identifying and coordinating the sectorial and transversal actions to be undertaken by the beekeeping and the agriculture sector in order to protect bees and pollinators. A state of play will be made about the beekeeping sector, assessing its strengths and difficulties, in order to find leverage that could be used to make it a profitable and attractive sector, taking also into account the traceability and competition with foreign beehive products as well. Moreover, the panellist will consider the results of the national programmes in favour of bees and beekeepers within the new Common Agricultural Policy. The panel will dwell on existing and potential synergies between the agriculture and the beekeeping sector, to put forward models that can be sustainable and viable.

- 15:00-15:05** Introductory remarks by **MEP Franc Bogovič**
- 15:05-15:15** Report from the Beekeepers and farmers Forum held on the 13th of June – **Stanislas Jas, Vice-Chair of the Honey Working Party, Copa-Cogeca**
- 15:15-15:25** Evaluation of the reformed CAP: beekeeping programmes  
**Laurence Bonafos, Market Officer “Eggs and Honey Sector”, DG AGRI, European Commission**
- 15:25-15:35** Concrete initiatives to support the beekeeping sector  
**Boštjan Noč, President of the Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association**
- 15:35-15:45** Collaborative models: what cooperation between beekeepers and farmers?  
**Philippe Garin, Poll'Aisne Attitude, Winner of the Copa-Cogeca Prize**
- 15:45-16:05** **Follow-up question by MEPs - Q&A with the audience**
- 16:05-16:15** What does a bee-friendly agri-food model mean?  
**Noa Simon, Scientific technical advisor, Bee Life**
- 16:15-16:25** EU state of play and effects of pesticides on bees and pollinators  
**Michael Flueh, Head of Unit “Pesticides and Biocides”, DG SANTE, European Commission**
- 16:25-16:35** The economics of caring for bees and pollinators and the role of professional beekeepers  
**Walter Haefeker, President, European Professional Beekeepers Association**
- 16:35-17:15** **Follow up questions by MEPs - Q&A with the audience**
- 17:15-17:20** Closing remarks by **MEP Alojz Peterle**
- 17:20-17:30** Conclusion of the conference by **MEP Mariya Gabriel**