

MEPs demand mandatory reduction of pesticides to save pollinators

Raquel Guerra, 18 Dec 2019 ENDSEurope

MEPs have called on the European Commission to develop an action plan to protect the diversity of bees, butterflies and other insect pollinator species and to maintain the EU's natural ecosystems

A resolution on the EU pollinators initiative was approved by a show of hands in the European Parliament on Wednesday. The text calls for EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticides to be included in the directive on sustainable use of pesticides and in the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

On behalf of the centre-left S&D group, environment committee coordinator Jytte Guteland welcomed the approval and said: “[Our] group demands mandatory EU-wide reduction targets for pesticides in order to create a non-toxic environment and to put an end to pollinators’ decline.”

On 3 December, the entire environment committee backed the text calling on the Commission to thoroughly evaluate the current policy and ensure more funding for research and better monitoring while addressing intensive farming, climate change and land-use changes.

Martin Dermine, policy officer at Pesticide Action Network Europe, told ENDS that the resolution sends “the Commission and member states back to the drawing board by obliging them to implement stricter standards to protect bees against pesticides.”

Dermine added that “we need a reform of our agricultural system.”

French S&D MEP Éric Andrieu, a member of the agriculture committee and former chair of the pesticides committee, echoed the text's demands to “drastically and quickly reduce the use of pesticides” and to monitor member states practices on “biodiversity conservation and to punish those states that do not do enough”.

Frédérique Ries, the liberal Renew Europe group's shadow rapporteur, said: “The new Commission has a chance here to demonstrate it is committed to protecting our ecosystems by swiftly translating its promises into actions. We need concrete actions, now.”

The resolution is in line with the recent ‘[Save Bees and Farmers](#)’ European Citizens’ Initiative calling on the Commission to phase out synthetic pesticides

by 2035 while committing to restore biodiversity and support small scale and sustainable farming.

news@endseurope.com

Follow-up: Draft [resolution](#) on the EU Pollinators Initiative, EP [press release](#), S&D group [press release](#), Renew Europe group [press release](#)