

Public consultation on an EU initiative for pollinators

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The initiative aims to tackle the decline of pollinators by increasing the effectiveness of EU policies for pollinators and raising the political profile of the issue. Addressing the decline of pollinators will support EU's efforts in halting the loss of biodiversity and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

This questionnaire aims to collect your views on the problem and how the EU can address it. You are invited to respond to the questionnaire, regardless of your level of expertise.

The questionnaire takes about **20 minutes to complete**. You can save your answers as draft and finish the survey later. The questionnaire is accessible in 23 EU languages and you can submit your reply in any of these languages. The questionnaire is structured as follows:

The **first part** of the questionnaire asks for some general information about you, the respondent, in order to better understand your perspective.

The **second part** covers your awareness about pollinators: their importance, status and the threats they are facing.

The **third part** covers the decline of pollinators: its extent, causes and consequences.

The **fourth part** asks you about possible solutions to address the decline of pollinators.

The **final section** allows you to provide final remarks or upload a document that you think is relevant to better explain your views.

Before responding to this survey, you are invited to read the following **background information** [[Roadmap, consultation webpage](#)].

I. General information about the respondent

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

* Country of residence

Belgium

Region (optional)

- Région de Bruxelles-capitale/Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest
- Vlaams Gewest
- Région Wallonne

*** You are replying**

- as an individual in your personal capacity.
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organization.

*** Respondent's first name**

*** Respondent's last name**

*** Professional email address**

*** Name of the organisation**

*** Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?**

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

*** If yes, please indicate your Register ID number.**

*** Type of organisation**

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)

- National public authority
- International organisation
- Other

*** Which of the following best describes your main field of activity or interest?**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> agriculture | <input checked="" type="radio"/> environment | <input type="radio"/> nature |
| <input type="radio"/> agro-industry (chemical, seed or machinery) | <input type="radio"/> extractive industry | <input type="radio"/> recreation |
| <input type="radio"/> apiculture | <input type="radio"/> finance | <input type="radio"/> science |
| <input type="radio"/> architecture | <input type="radio"/> food/beverage industry | <input type="radio"/> tourism |
| <input type="radio"/> bio-economy | <input type="radio"/> forestry | <input type="radio"/> transport |
| <input type="radio"/> construction & development | <input type="radio"/> health | <input type="radio"/> urban planning and development |
| <input type="radio"/> culture | <input type="radio"/> horticulture | <input type="radio"/> other |
| <input type="radio"/> education | <input type="radio"/> hunting | |
| <input type="radio"/> energy | <input type="radio"/> media and communication | |

*** Your contribution**

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N° 1049/2001](#)

- can be published with your personal information** (I consent to the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part under the name indicated, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that you remain anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication)

II. Pollinators and their role

*** 1. How well do you consider yourself informed about pollinators: their importance, status and trends, and the threats they are facing?**

- Very well informed
- Well informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not well informed
- Not at all informed

*** 2. What are your main sources of information on pollinators? Please choose maximum three options.**

at most 3 choice(s)

- National newspapers
- Regional or local newspapers
- Magazines
- Television news

- The radio
- Films and documentaries on television
- Family, friends or neighbours
- Colleagues
- Professional contacts
- Brochures or information materials
- Books or scientific literature
- Events (conferences, fairs, exhibitions, festivals, etc.)
- Museums, national or regional parks
- Online social networks
- The Internet (other websites, blogs, forums, etc.)
- Other

3. In your opinion, how important...

	Indispensable	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion /Not sure
* ...are pollinators for human well-being?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...is the role of pollinators in natural systems?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...is the service provided by pollinators to agricultural systems?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...are pollinators for the sustainability of rural livelihoods?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...are pollinators for our food security?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...is it to protect pollinators for their intrinsic and cultural value, and not only for their economic value?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...is it to protect pollinators for future generations?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 4. Pollinators contribute to human society in different ways. For instance, their contribution to EU agriculture sector has been estimated at around EUR 15 billion per year. Protecting pollinators also involves costs. In your opinion, how do the potential costs of their protection compare with the socio-economic benefits that they provide?**

- The costs and benefits are more or less equal
- The costs are much higher than the benefits

- The costs are **higher** than the benefits
- The costs are **lower** than the benefits
- The costs **are much** lower than the benefits
- No opinion/Not sure

*** 5. Both wild and domesticated pollinators (like honeybees) pollinate agricultural crops in the EU. In your opinion, how do their respective contributions to crop pollination compare?**

- Their contributions are more or less **equal**
- Domesticated pollinators contribute **a lot more** than wild pollinators
- Domesticated pollinators contribute **more** than wild pollinators
- Domesticated pollinators contribute **less** than wild pollinators
- Domesticated pollinators contribute **a lot less** than wild pollinators
- No opinion/Not sure

III. Decline of pollinators, its causes and consequences

*** 6. In your opinion, the current decline of pollinators in abundance and diversity is:**

- Alarming
- Serious
- Moderate
- Negligible
- No opinion / Not sure

7. The decline of pollinators is due to several causes. Please indicate how important you consider the following causes.

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion /Not sure
* 1. Agricultural intensification	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 1.1 Simplification of agricultural landscapes (e.g. monocultures)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 1.2 Increased grazing /mowing of grasslands	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 1.3 Use of fertilizers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 1.4 Use of pesticides	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 2. Farmland abandonment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 3. Urbanization	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 4. Pollution (including light pollution)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 5. Invasive alien species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 6. Diseases (e.g. pathogens, parasites)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 7. Climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 8. Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 8. To which extent do you consider that the decline of pollinators affects you in your private life?**

- A lot
- Significantly
- Somewhat
- Not at all
- No opinion / Not sure

*** 9. To which extent do you consider that the decline of pollinators affects you professionally?**

- A lot
- Significantly
- Somewhat
- Not at all
- No opinion / Not sure

IV. How to halt the decline of pollinators

*** 10. In your opinion, how do the EU policies currently address the decline of pollinators?**

- Very well
- Well
- Adequately
- Not well
- Not at all well
- No opinion/ Not sure

*** 11. In your opinion, how do the policies of your country or region currently address the decline of pollinators?**

- Very well
- Well
- Adequately
- Not well
- Not at all well
- No opinion/ Not sure

12. In your opinion, how much should the efforts to halt the decline of pollinators be stepped up at the following levels?

	A lot	Significantly	Somewhat	Not at all	No opinion / Not sure
* International	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* National	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Regional	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Local	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. In your opinion, how important is to include the following actions in the EU Pollinators Initiative?

Actions to improve knowledge

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion / Not sure
* 1. Assess and monitor the decline of pollinators	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 2. Analyse threats to pollinators and the consequences of their decline	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 3. Promote innovation for the conservation of pollinators	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Actions to tackle the causes of decline

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion / Not sure
* 4. Protect and restore pollinator habitats in Natura 2000 sites	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 5. Protect and restore pollinator habitats in rural areas outside Natura 2000 sites	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 6. Protect and restore pollinator habitats in urban areas outside Natura 2000 sites	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 7. Assess risks of pesticides to pollinators	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 8. Implement Integrated Pest Management	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 9. Combat invasive alien species	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 10. Mitigate climate change impacts on pollinators	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 11. Reduce pollution (including light pollution)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 12. Protect pollinators from diseases	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 13. Support the efforts of the private sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 14. Create market incentives for pollinator friendly activities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Actions to raise awareness, improve collaboration and knowledge sharing

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion / Not sure
* 15. Engage local communities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 16. Support knowledge sharing among stakeholders	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* 17. Support collaboration among Member States	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 18. Support the development of local/regional/national strategies



V. Final remarks

If you wish to add further information - within the scope of this questionnaire - please feel free to do so here.

2000 character(s) maximum

The decline of pollinators is the tip of the iceberg of the dramatic decline of biodiversity in general. A series of policies need to be strongly modified or implemented in order to quickly reverse this tendency.

Integrated Pest Management. In the frame of the revision of the CAP reform, a well-designed IPM should be mandatory and linked to CAP payments. This includes: mandatory long crop rotations (5-7 years), development of biodiversity in farms (supporting more planting of hedge rows and trees), provision of free public advice to develop a strategy to reduce use of pesticides, etc. Developing a plan towards low impact farming with specific targets.

Pesticides:

1. The 2013 EFSA Bee Guidance Document should be implemented immediately. The part on honey bees as well as acute and chronic toxicity tests on bumble bees should be immediately implemented. The rest of the tests should be implemented within 2 years.
2. Derogations: the provision of derogations to non-authorized/banned pesticides by Member States should be stopped as Member States constantly abuse this system. If not, farmers making use of pesticides that were granted a derogation should not receive CAP money anymore.
3. Monitoring of bees' exposure at national levels should be made mandatory to be able to assess the consequences of use of pesticides. Based on constant monitoring, Member States and the European Commission should review on a regular base (every 2 years for instance) authorisations and not every 10 years (+ several years of delays).

Biodiversity: the importance of biodiversity should be much more promoted in Member States, especially among local policy makers: development of flowering areas, planting nectar/pollen rich indigenous trees (e.g. linden, chestnut, maples) and hedges, protection of natural areas. Greener cities should be promoted: more nature, zero pesticides.

In conclusion, the protection of pollinators goes in line with sustainable development of the EU.

Please upload your file

The maximum file size is 1 MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this open public consultation. The document is an optional complement and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

Contact

