To: the Members of the Commission of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety the Members of the commission of Agriculture and Rural Development

N/réf. :

Subject: Beekeepers - Pesticides - Inclusion of active substances in Annex I of Directive 91/414

Dear Sir/Madam,

In 2003 the European Parliament showed great interest in the problems that European beekeepers have been facing in the past fifteen years, by adopting a resolution\(^1\) inviting the Commission to set up various measures that, unfortunately, have not yet been implemented. In particular, the establishment of an expert committee where the beekeeper associations would be represented has not been carried out.

Nevertheless, various beekeeper associations and environmental organisations are writing today to the European Commission with the request not to include in the Annex I of Directive 91/414 certain active substances that are problematic for the evaluation of risk in relation to bees. These problems have been partly made known by the decision of the French council of state of 24 February 2006, decision that will be legally applicable in all European Countries\(^2\). Please find enclosed our letter to the Commission for your perusal.

With the aim to keep you informed on the development of this issue and to stimulate an exchange of views with the members of your Committee, the signatories of this letter would like to ask you for a hearing of your Committee to discuss the evaluation of risks in relation to bees in the current European legislation and in the management of the documents on active substances.

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Many thanks for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

AAPI – Associazione Apicoltori Professionisti Italiani
Luca Bonizzoni, Président Italia

Asociación Galega de Apicultura- AGA
Xesús Asorey Martínez Secrétaire technique Galicia - España

Deutscher Berufs und Erwerbs Imker Bund
Manfred Hederer, Präsident Deutschland

European Professional Beekeepers Association
Peter Bross, President Hungary

Fédération Apicole Belge – Belgische Bijenteeltfederatie v.z.w.
Jean-Marie Bohet, président Belgique

Friends of the Earth Europe
Fouad Hamdan Belgique

Koninklijke Vlaamse Imkerbond
Chris Dauw, Voorzitter Belgique

Lëtzebuerger Landesverband fir Beienzuucht
M. Robert Henckes Luxembourg

Mitteldeutsche Imkerunion EV
Günther Jesse , Vorsitzender Deutschland

Mouvement pour le droit et le respect des générations futures
François Veillerette, Président France

Natagora
Harry Mardulyn Belgique

Nature et Progrès Belgique
Marc Fichers Secrétaire général Belgique

Pesticide Action Network Europe
Sofia Parente, PAN Europe Coordinator Great-Britain

Syndicat national d’apiculture
Yves Védrenne, Président France

Umweltbund
Dr. Friedhelm Berger Präsident Deutschland

Unione Nazionale Associazioni Apicoltori Italiani
Francesco Panella, Président Italia

Union nationale de l’apiculture française
Henri Clément, Président France

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Jean-Yves SALIEZ secrétaire général IEW Belgique