



Launch of a European network of Bee-Friendly Cities

Installation of bees in cities

« The first European network of Bee-Friendly Cities is launched ! » welcomed Mariya Gabriel and Michel Dantin, at the end of the first workshop « bee friendly cities » who took place on 27 June for the week of bees and pollinators, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The European week for bees and pollinators - EU BeeWeek - was born in 2012 at the European Parliament. It is chaired by Mariya Gabriel and supported by several MEPs, including Michel Dantin, Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Nathalie Griesbeck, Frédérique Ries and John Procter.

« For the 6th edition of the EU BeeWeek we put a focus on the importance of pollinators in urban areas » the MEPs declared.

An increasing number of hives are put in cities. Initiatives from individuals have emerged as well as from local authorities seeking to improve environmental quality in urban areas. This week also aims to raise citizens' awareness about the importance of pollinators, climate and environmental challenges.

« The support of bees in cities generate lots of positive actions in favour of biodiversity and the development of green areas in urban places. This is what you want to promote at a larger scale », added MEPs involved in the BeeWeek.

A European network to support local initiatives

« Since several years, initiatives in favour of pollinators have flourished all around Europe. Associations and labels were created. Our objective is to support these initiatives, share good practices at European level and extend the network of cities engaged for pollinators ».

This event was an opportunity for cities from France, Italy, Belgium, Sweden and the south of the Mediterranean coast to share their experiences.

A list of practical recommendations

In cooperation with BeeLife, a list of recommendations was set up as a first step for the creation of a European network of Bee-Friendly Cities. It proposes actions in 4 fields: plants and flowers in cities; insects' pest, weeds and diseases; education and awareness; quality of the environment.

« These recommendations bunch good practices and measures which already exist. Now, we shall spread them across European cities. We will meet on June 2018 at the 7th edition of the BeeWeek to assess progress made », concluded MEPs Mariya Gabriel, Michel Dantin, Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Nathalie Griesbeck, Frédérique Ries and John Procter.

