

# **The European Week of Bees and Pollination**

**26 - 28 June 2017**

6<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# BEEES AND BEEODIVERSITY : NEW COOPERATIONS

## PROGRAM

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, 9:00AM - 6:00PM

### SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

### EUROPEAN NETWORK OF BEE-FRIENDLY CITIES

Workshop, European Parliament, Brussels

### EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE OF BEEKEEPERS

Workshop, European Parliament, Brussels

### BEEKEEPERS AND FARMERS FORUM

Workshop, European Parliament, Brussels

### DISCOVERY NIGHT

Reception, European Parliament, Brussels

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, 9:00AM - 6:00PM

### HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

European Parliament, Brussels

Room PHS 5B001

## INVITATION

### The 2017 European Week of Bees and Pollination

Hosted by Mariya Gabriel MEP, Chair of the "Apiculture & Bee Health" Working Group of the EP Intergroup on «Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Developments».

With the support of Members of European Parliament : Michel Dantin, Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Nathalie Griesbeck, Frédérique Ries, John Procter.

### THE 2017 EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION

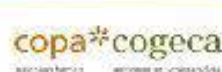
Since 2012, the European Bee and Pollination Week is held every year in the European Parliament in Brussels. This meeting has become a must-attend event and brings together all stakeholders in the sector: European MPs, representatives of the Commission and European institutions, beekeepers, farmers, scientists, veterinarians, manufacturers, NGOs and citizens. Together, they exchange proposals with public authorities to promote a sustainable beekeeping chain capable of ensuring the sustainability of the valuable service of pollination and its consequences: ecosystem services, biodiversity, production and food security.

After recalling the original multifactorial approach of bee mortality observed throughout the world, after stressing the need for better collaboration between stakeholders through dialogue and mutual respect, the stakeholders historically involved in the European Bee and Pollination Week have called for the establishment of an operational technical platform to improve exchanges between beekeepers and scientists. This edition is marked by the willingness and commitment of EFSA to set up this platform. The first working groups to define the outlines and the priority needs will be held during this 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bee Week.

This year, the beekeepers of the Mediterranean basin will contribute to enrich our discussions and to draw the outlines of the new operations around the beekeeping chain.

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## **I. Short Presentation of the European Week of Bees and Pollination**

**Launched in 2012, the European Week of Bees and Pollination** takes place annually at the European Parliament, bringing together representatives of the European and national institutions, beekeepers, farmers, animal health specialists, scientists, NGOs and the industry. Through discussions and other interactive activities, participants can exchange views, discuss recent developments related to bee health and the beekeeping sector across the continent and urge policy-makers to address specific problems.

**Entitled *Bees and Biodiversity: new cooperations*, the sixth edition of the European Week of Bees and Pollination took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on the 26-28th June 2017.** The program included the following events and activities: a scientific symposium (26 June in the Solvay Library), a Beekeepers and Farmers Forum (27 June in the European Parliament), a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on beekeeping (27 June in the European Parliament), a high-level Conference with three panels (28 June) opened by Mrs Mariya Gabriel MEP.

The topic of this year's edition aimed to highlight the **vital contribution of bees and pollination to our societies in Europe** and worldwide and to **urge all stakeholders to seek new forms of collaboration** in the fight for their preservation.

**Indeed, bees and pollinators provide invaluable services.** About three-quarters of food crops in the world depend to some extent on pollination. Bees alone are responsible for the pollination of more than 30% of global food production. Europe alone is home to 1,965 wild bee species. In addition, there are approximately 600,000 beekeepers and 16 million beehives in the EU. On the whole, estimates show that pollinators contribute EUR 22 billion to European agriculture each year. Furthermore, this value does not consider the precious service pollinators do in maintaining the fecundity of wild plants. It is **therefore crucial that a common and collaborative framework be developed** in order to protect this species and other pollinating animals.

**Under the patronage of MEP Mariya Gabriel (EPP Group / Bulgaria), Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Sustainable development and Chair of the Working Group on Apiculture and Bee Health**, the 6th European Week of Bees and Pollination was actively supported by a large group of MEPs from different EU member states and political groups in particular by Michel Dantin (EPP/France), Marijana Petir (EPP/Croatia), Mairead McGuinness (EPP/Ireland), Frédérique Ries (ALDE/Belgium), Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE/France) and John Procter (ECR/United Kingdom).

**The co-organizers of the Bee Week** included the United Nations Development Programme, the Biodiversity network for bees, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liege), BeeOdiversity, Bee Life, the European Food Safety Authority and Copa-Cogeca. This edition



was also **greatly supported** by partners such as Fedapimed, Felcos Umbria and the Coobeeration campaign.

## II. Executive Summary of the Sixth edition of the European Week of Bees and Pollination

The aim of the sixth edition of the European Week of Bees and Pollination was clear: to **explore new avenues of cooperation and develop a collaborative framework among all stakeholders**. The Symposium, Workshop, Dialogue, Forum and the High-level conference enabled to draw general guidelines to answer this question, after having pointed out the various challenges and threats faced by pollinators and the beekeeping sector.

The panels and conferences held throughout this three day initiative thus intended to lay the groundwork for the **broadest possible coalition of stakeholders**.

Despite vested interests and sometimes diverging opinions, members and participants largely came to the following conclusion: **they might not agree on everything, but they know that working toward and investing in areas of agreement can yield tremendous progress** on a matter which is essential to our modern day societies.

Indeed our **lives and the world as a whole, would be a very different place if bees did not exist**.

Bees are responsible for pollinating about 1/6 of the flowering plant species worldwide and approximately 400 different agriculture types of plants. Honey bees, bumblebees and wild bees

ensure pollination for over 80 percent of crops and wild plants in Europe.

Honey bees also provide honey and other apiculture products such as pollen, wax for food processing, propolis in food technology and royal jelly used as a dietary supplement and as an ingredient in food.



### *Enduring threats*

With pollinator populations continuing to seriously decline in recent years, **the root causes behind bee colony losses and threats to their general health** were brought to the attention of attendees, notably habitat destruction, pesticides, diseases and parasites, invasive species and climate change and its related impacts.

Because of the **urgency of this problem and the multi-faceted nature of the threats behind it**, the need for serious and immediate action by policymakers was repeatedly stressed. **Multiple policy approaches in a variety of sectors** were therefore detailed and explained in order to mitigate the declines.

### *Key policy recommendations*

Among the key ideas that came out of these intensive and enriching discussions were the notion that a **European-level leadership and strategic plan is needed** to reflect the scale of the bee health challenge – and that the Bee Week substantially contributes to this political visibility. Equally important was that **bottom-up approaches and local tailor-made solutions** are key to successful work when one-size-fits-all policies are inadapted. **Sustained and enhanced communication** - one of the core messages of this Bee Week - between all actors was repeatedly mentioned.

Concrete proposals for **conserving existing habitats and rehabilitating new habitats** for instance in urban areas or setting up **incentives and payments schemes for farmers that grow pollinator-dependent crops** were presented. Calls for an **increase in the research funding destined to pollinators and the assessing the economic value of pollination services** were also made.

Finally, in a world where technological innovations are increasingly shaping our lives and where connectivity enables us to reach unprecedented levels of public attention, it was also stressed that **technology should be utilised to monitor and document pollinator populations**. Indeed, despite the considerable research that has already been conducted into the matter, there is **neither a precise quantification of beekeeper-reported problems nor a valid data-based explanation** for what is impacting bee colony survival or fitness.

### *Avenues for future cooperation*

Beyond scientific objectives, the various sessions and conferences highlighted the need for further communication efforts, additional education platforms for continuing stakeholder dialogue, collaboration and understanding of bee health, bringing together apiarists, farmers and scientists – in short, all those who care about healthy bees. This was the success of this edition of European Bee Week: bringing together all stakeholders, providing the extraordinary opportunity to actively discuss, recognize, address and endeavor to solve these pressing issues together. Guests, ranging from beekeepers in the Mediterranean to French scientists and Italian bartenders working with honey, sat around a common table to **commit to taking important steps towards diagnosing and preventing bee mortality through in collaborative framework**.

**This year's edition successfully laid down a platform for a vital cross-sector cooperation and will hopefully see this evolve into a lasting coalition among all stakeholders for improved bee health.**

### III. Summaries of the discussions

#### *A. The Scientific Symposium*

The scientific symposium – **“Collecting and sharing data on bee health: Towards a European Bee Partnership”** – kicked off activities of the European Week of Bees and Pollination 2017 on Monday, 26 June at the Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels. The **event was co-organised by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the historical members of the Bee Week**, as well as the European Professional Beekeepers Association (EPBA), BeeLife (European Beekeeping Coordination), COPA COGECA, and the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA).

The main objective of the symposium was to come up **with a practical, concrete proposal to bring together information and data from disparate sources** with one single aim – to halt the decline in bee loss or weakening of honey bee colonies. Participants were tasked with considering to work towards setting up a European Bee Partnership – a platform for collecting and sharing bee health data. The focus at this symposium was honey bees, with an eye to the future of expanding such a Partnership to other bees and pollinators.

Around 130 people were present made up of an evenly balanced audience of beekeepers, farmers groups, scientists, NGOs, international organisations, EU institutions (DG AGRI, DG



SANTE, DG CONNECT), industry, NGOs and media.

In her **opening statement to the symposium**, MEP Mariya Gabriel – President of the European Week of Bees and Pollinators - **encouraged all stakeholders to collaborate among all sectors and levels, to pool efforts to achieve better data sharing and management** to enable more robust assessment of bee health in the EU.

A plenary session was followed by two discussion groups characterised by informative contributions and rich exchanges by all present. The subject of the first discussion group was “*Stakeholder collaboration to establish holistic bee health monitoring in the field*” – focusing specifically on the **identification of stakeholder needs to optimise data sharing in the EU**. The second discussion group was entitled “*Better data collection and access for better bee health risk assessment*” - centring on the more **technical aspects of data collection/reporting and storing** with high quality standards requirements and ultimately on issues related to data management.

The last session of the day was grouped around a panel discussion with members from the EPBA, ECPA, COLOSS (the Prevention of honey bee colony losses), and PAN-Europe – giving their consideration to the vision of the Partnership being a platform run by stakeholders for the benefit of stakeholders to ensure ultimately that honey bees in the EU can thrive and prosper. All participants - from beekeepers to scientists to policy makers – were told they had **an opportunity to make a difference with this initiative**, to learn from past partnership experiences but to also make a commitment necessary for success.

Questions put to the panel and in a Q&A session with the floor included what each saw as the main benefits of harmonised data collection and analysis to the group they represented; did they see harmonisation (or standardisation) of data as being the main immediate challenge and did they see bigger challenges; which stakeholders did they see as being key to carrying forward the initiative over the next 12 months; how did they see the Partnership being managed in the future?

All those who were present agreed that **the Partnership was an initiative on which they wanted to collaborate** and were prepared to carry on discussions over the next 12 months in order to establish the platform in time for European Bee Week 2018.

**EFSA offered** – through its Stakeholder Engagement Approach – **to facilitate two to three meetings over the coming months with interested stakeholders** to discuss and come to an agreement on the Terms of Reference of the European Bee Partnership. The success of the initiative – this ‘Partnership of the Willing’ -- will require openness, transparency and trust.



## ***B. The Workshop, the Dialogue, the Forum, the Exhibition and Discovery Night***

### **Workshop for a European Network and Bee-Friendly Cities**

The second day of the Bee Week started with the “Workshop for a European Network of Bee-Friendly Cities” session held in the European Parliament. During this time, several actors from European cities had the opportunity to present their bee-friendly cities’ projects. The aim of the workshop was to reflect on ways through which to create a European network of urban and peri-urban habitats more bee-friendly.

By way of introduction the **MEP Michel Dantin, member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)**, stressed different major aspects of the bee-friendly initiatives in urban areas. According to him, a **European network to exchange ideas is essential to share good practices**. He noted that the global quality of urban areas was decisive if bee-friendly projects were to be efficient. Thus, the choice of flowers and maintaining weeds in those spaces were key aspect to consider. He also emphasized the need to raise awareness among the population, since it has to accept such projects in order for them to succeed.



Next, **Aloïs Chassot, Chambéry’s Municipal councilor to sustainable development, new technologies, energy transition and communication**, presented the project led by the city of Chambéry (France) regarding beekeeping and biodiversity. The motto of the city in terms of biodiversity is “sensitizing without moralizing”.

Third, **Julien Ruelle, the delegate from Bruxelles Environnement (IBGE) / Leefmilieu Brussel (BIM) in the Green Spaces Division**, tabled the projects of the city of Brussels (Belgium) relative to environment, biodiversity and beekeeping. He emphasized the fact that all the projects dealing with environment cannot be initiated by the city of Brussels since environment is within the competence of the federal administration. However, **the city of Brussels launched several environment-friendly projects** including the setting up of

collaborative gardens to foster the city's biodiversity, an effort to register the hives present in the city as well as carrying out a census of the bee population.

Moreover, Mr Ruelle stressed the importance of wild bee colonies in the Parc du Cinquantenaire as well as the need to pay attention to the choice of flower plants in the city. Indeed, he considers that **if the flowers are not adapted or if green spaces are too scarce in the city, wild bees and honey bees could be in a competition to access feed**. It is thus necessary to take into account both honey bees and wild bees in the bee-friendly projects held by the city of Brussels.

Next, **Lars Hellander, an organic beekeeper and farmer and member of the board of projects “Bin I stan” and “Stockholm hem”**, presented the bee-friendly actions implemented by the city of Stockholm (Sweden). According to him, the project aims at creating a bee-friendly city such as in London with the Bee Line or in the United States of America with the label Bee City USA. To do so, a census of the bee population has been carried out and the Royal National City Park has been turned into a bee-friendly park. Indeed, flowers cannot be cut until they have flourished and people have the opportunity to rent hives.

Then, **Lucia Madolli, the Vice-Director of FELCOS Umbria, and the International coordinator of *Mediterranean CooBEEration* project**, introduced the Euro-Mediterranean beekeeping project. She spoke about her belief that bees should be considered as a common good and that is what the Mediterranean CooBEEration project aims at doing. The project is financed thanks to European funds and twelve municipalities from different countries have already joined the project.

Other urban bee-friendly initiatives were discussed such as the example of the French city of Dijon. Indeed, the **city of Dijon** has been producing honey since 2013 and in 2016, 600 kg of honey were produced. The city possesses a hundred hives and over two million bees. Several awareness days are organized each year to promote the bee friendly initiatives in the city such as the “Api’Days”. Thanks to all these efforts, the city of Dijon was awarded **the label “Api Cité”**. Overall, the project seems to be welcomed by the population and the city has adapted itself to bees since green roofs have been developed and grass grown in the tramway tracks.



## Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on beekeeping



During this conference, **ten delegates from different organizations or associations dealing directly or indirectly with pollination and beekeeping in the Mediterranean took the floor.** The aim was to enable these actors to discuss the topic of beekeeping in the frame of a Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and to hear their views on the subject.

In her introduction speech, **MEP Mariya Gabriel** identified the main challenges regarding beekeeping. She pointed out that protecting bees

and thinking about the future is essential. She put forward the need for a new form of cooperation which is crucial to meet the many challenges we are facing like the decline of bee species. Moreover, she emphasized the **weaknesses of the current cooperation since the lack of viable data makes it very difficult to have a complete understanding of the nature of the challenges.** Moreover, the decline of the bee population generates loss of food sovereignty and food production which endangers our survival and our independence. Thus, this issue requires a collective answer in order to be overcome. Mrs Gabriel added the need to strengthen the cooperation between member states so as to improve agriculture and beekeeping and fields that are essential for a common sustainable development, reminding that **the goal is to establish a win-win partnership.**

**Martino Miraglia**, a consultant for the Global Policy and Programme Support from the United Nations Development Programme, stressed the fact that a global partnership for sustainable development is needed as well as the need to find **common solutions, address common challenges** relative to beekeeping, pollination and biodiversity.

Next, **Stefano Dotto**, Head of sector Environment & Agriculture Regional Projects from DG NEAR, encouraged investment in southern neighborhood countries through the medium of regional programs. He encouraged EU investments and cooperation with southern neighborhood countries. European investments could, for instance, contribute to reinforcing non-governmental institutions and therefore **play a role at a more local level by identifying and providing tangible solutions to bee-related challenges.**

The third speaker, the international coordinator of the project at FELCOS Umbria Mrs **Lucia Maddoli**, pointed out the importance of promoting both a dialogue between the beekeepers in

the Mediterranean and a political dialogue with institutions in order to defend the beekeepers' interests. Lucia Maddoli thus applauded **the initiative of creating FED APIMED in 2011, an association gathering cooperatives and associations from eleven Mediterranean countries**. She also recommended more cooperation between scientists and the academic world to extend the knowledge and cooperation in the beekeeping sector. Mrs Maddoli insisted on the fact that FELCOS Umbria promotes a vision of beekeeping as a common good.

According to **Vincenzo Panettieri**, the President of the Federation of Apiculturists in the Mediterranean (APIMED), there is also a need for both better cooperation and common strategies to reach defined goals. He stressed the importance of international cooperation to favor the broader beekeeping sector instead of defending solely the individual interests of beekeepers. He reminded the audience that beekeepers have to work together to ensure the quality of their products, promote biodiversity and fight against pesticides.

The fifth speaker, **Etienne Bruneau**, President of the WG on Honey of the Copa-Cogeca, identified several challenges the beekeeping world has to face. Among them he listed the following: a need to **improve product traceability on the honey market, a need for such markets to be better controlled in order to preserve the quality of products** (which goes hand in hand with transparency and clarity) and the need **to address the rising mortality of bees**. In his closing remarks, he identified another threat to bees, namely invasive species.

Then, **Mohammed Hamzaoui** from the National Associations of Professional Apiculturists of Algeria (ANAP), established a list of the shared priorities in order to address common challenges. From his point of view, both the decreasing honey production and the lack of product traceability needed to be tackled. He also pointed out the **positive impact of beekeeping given its role in job creation**, thus triggering economic and social development.

**Diego Pagani**, President of the National Consortium of Apiculturists (CONAPI), beekeepers have to face two main challenges that affect their production. On the one hand, **Asian honey is flooding the market reducing the price of honey**, while on the other hand beekeepers have to increase their number of hives to maintain a stable level of production. Beekeepers are thus under pressure. To prevent such a situation, controls over products should be intensified to ensure a fairer competition between producers.

This was followed by **Claudio Porrini**, a representative from the Department of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Bologna, reporting that biodiversity was a main concern when speaking about bees. Indeed, intensive agriculture characterized by monoculture cripples biodiversity and thus bee life. **A more sustainable agriculture and agricultural practices need to be developed to prevent such a phenomenon.**

Finally, the two last speakers dealt with **pesticides nicotinoids and bee mortality**. **Mohammed Alrababah** from the Association of Jordanian Apiculturists insisted on the necessity of a North-South cooperation in terms of research to address the lack of knowledge



relative to bees and the diseases that affect them while **Noa Delso Simone** from BeeLife dealt with neonicotinoids and their adverse effect on bee health.

During the exchange of views, MEP Gabriel underlined the **necessity to have concrete ideas tabled by farmers and beekeepers to enable the institutional framework to match with their reality**. Moreover, she declared that if physical borders do exist, they should not become borders that brake on development. Indeed, Mrs Gabriel emphasized the need for cross-border cooperation between the different actors dealing with biodiversity, environment and bees. Mrs Gabriel pointed out the significance of rural development, harmonious development between the different regions and youth unemployment. According to her, **beekeeping can be decisive to address one of the main issue the Mediterranean is facing: youth unemployment**.

### **Beekeepers and Farmers Forum: measures and tools on how to adopt together to climate change**

During the next session, beekeepers and farmers had the opportunity to discuss the measures and tools required to adapt, together, to the challenges posed by climate change.

First, the **MEP Marijana Petir** stressed the importance of addressing such pressing issues, notably at the European level. Mrs Petir highlighted **the fact that the entire food chain depends on bees and their extinction would have a catastrophic impact on food production**. Even if the EU is the biggest exporter and importer of honey, it nevertheless lacks 13 million bee communities according to recent data. Mrs Petir also mentionned the **problem of illegal honey markets** and urged for the mandatory marking of honey products to stop frauds connected with it.



Secondly, **Max Schulman**, the Chair of Copa-Cogeca's Working Party on Cereals and the Chair of the Forum, expressed his **sincere hope that the future would bring better ideas and more understanding among stakeholders** in order to yield collaborative solutions.

Next, **Ankica Dušević**, the Secretary of the Croatian Beekeepers Federation, highlighted the fact that the demand for pollination is growing because of bigger food production. According



to her, 87 species of plants depend on pollination by animals - this being the reason why bees are so essential for both biodiversity and global food production. In the context of climate change, Mrs Dušević **identified three scenarios: adaptation, emigration or species extinction**. The first scenario is the least possible one since changes in climate are happening too quickly. The second scenario is already happening because there is migration towards the Earth's poles as a result of climate change. Crops and pollinators which can migrate can be easily moved but wild plants and pollinators could go extinct since climate changes have a direct impact on them. If bees had to face a dry climate they would lack food and thus migrate and leave to bordering areas or inhospitable areas. This migration process could provoke the extinction of bees. Considering those obstacles, Mrs Dušević sees **beekeepers' education and the adaptation through technological innovation as key aspects to fighting against bee extinction**.

Then, **Radostin Dimitrov**, Business Development Executive at Bee Smart Technologies, pointed out that a changing climate affects the behaviour and development of bee communities. Moreover, aspects of the climate affect the production of nectar. He noted that predictions say an increased temperature will lead dry places to become even drier, further endangering bee survival. To prevent bees from going extinct, Mr Dimitrov recommends to use the system **Bee smart, a monitoring system which protects bees**. This system is easy to install and connected with the Internet through a wi-fi network. Their mission is to use bees as sensors on spot solution to analyse chemicals, pollen, the quality of crops, fields and water in various regions. Several initiatives of this type have already been launched in Australia and California as pilot projects. Mr Dimitrov hopes many will follow in these positive steps and support him.

**Lars Gustaf Hellander**, a Board member of the Swedish Beekeepers Association, declared: *"We have 175 beekeepers in Sweden who measure temperatures every hour and monitor them over the years. The system monitors flowers and trees around the hives. We shouldn't only use old resources, we need to think differently".*

**Grozdana Grubišić** emphasized the importance of climate change and pesticides as the main reasons behind the near extinction of bees in Croatia: *"Climate changes were not created over night - they were caused by the unsustainable use of pesticides and mineral compost which is an imperative of modern-day agricultural production. We want more harvests all the time."* She also pinpointed **the issue of water management** by arguing that there is enough water in Croatia, but that owing to lack of proper agrotechniques, droughts always surprise Croatian farmers and beekeepers. Lastly, Mrs. Grubišić highlighted **the need of education of all stakeholders on the impact and drivers of climate change**.

**Various beekeepers and farmers from France**, including Laurent Bourdil and Yvan Hennion, took part in the exchange of views. The general points were that there is **less and less water in reserve as well as dwindling food resources**. They agreed that plant diversity was necessary and that decreasing greenhouse gases was a priority. The need for constant cooperation was repeatedly pointed out. Philippe Lecompte, President of the Réseau Biodiversité pour les Abeilles, underlined the importance of the work undertaken by MEP

Michel Dantin to attempt to re-establish a **financial incentive for apicultural set-aside areas in the CAP**, from the 1st of January 2018 onwards. These reserves of pollen and nectar offer a rich and varied source of feed for bees and enable them to strengthen their immune systems.

**Noa Delso Simone**, from Bee Life said that problems have a quantity and quality dimension. *“We do not need to have more resources, but we need them to be of better quality.* Mrs. Simone emphasized that the solution to pesticides is persistence and **using rotation of crops technique**, given that other crops can be contaminated, which would in turn contaminate the flower and the pollinators. A **multidimensional approach** is required. *“Everything we can do for the climate will benefit our children too. The focus needs to be on the present because bees need resources now. We need to look for a solution.”*

**Angela Garofalo**, from the Dipartimento Sviluppo Agroalimentare e Territorio, said that the program of rural development in Italy does not have the appropriate measures for focusing on beekeepers. Mrs. Garofalo **underlined that the key function beekeepers play with regards to the economy and the environment is often underestimated:** *“Beekeeping is more important than numbers would suggest”* - she noted.

**Sofia Björnsson**, Chair of Copa-Cogeca’s Working Party on Rural Development, emphasized that programs developed by Copa-Cogeca were made to be used alongside various projects supporting beekeeping. As a suggestion, Mrs. Björnsson said that we need to look at the current lack of skill and knowledge about the beekeeping sector. On a positive note she added that **these kinds of discussions with farmers were needed because they were encouraging and led to an increase in mutual understanding.**

**Max Schulman**, Chair of Copa-Cogeca’s Working Party on Cereals, concluded the talks by saying that urgent changes, ones which take the environment into account, were needed. **He urged beekeepers to enhance their organisations into associations or unions so that their voice could be heard.** He stated that the Copa-Cogeca had a role to play by making a list of political recommendations and of best practical measures to be implemented rapidly.

## The Exhibition: Bees and humans, a fascinating relationship



The exhibition, brought by Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination, featured several collections of posters created by the Apicultural Center for Research and Information (CARI).

Entitled **“Bees and humans, a fascinating relationship”** and hosted in collaboration with the partners of CARI, it featured detailed explanations of the processes behind honey-making and beekeeping alongside photographs of bees. This enabled an **immersion into the complex world of bees** and a better understanding of the intricate relationship between our human societies and pollinators.

A fascinating visual display hosted in the Yehudi Menuhin mezzanine of the European Parliament, the **exhibition proved a powerful tool to anchor and illustrate the issues that had been discussed throughout the day.**



## The DiscoveryNight



The Discovery Night was a unique opportunity for producers to meet with some of their political representatives as well as members of the public and honey amateurs. It gave an opportunity to those actors to exchange and discuss together of the challenges in their profession and to share with them their passion for bees and beekeeping. The Discovery Night was **a privileged moment to taste the products from the several beekeepers present at the Beeweek. French, Croatian and Bulgarian honeys were offered for tasting as well as honey-based beers from Belgium, France and Sweden. The different artisanal products showcased during this reception gave a very concrete example of the diversity of possibilities existing in the apiculture sector in the European Union** and materialized the discussions that took place throughout the day. In her opening speech, Mrs Gabriel welcomed such an event as a good example of cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders and thanked the Réseau Biodiversité pour les Abeilles and Bee Life for their contribution and involvement in the Discovery Night.





### *C. The High-level Conference*



#### **Opening Session**

The third day of the European Week of Bees and Pollination was marked by a High-Level Conference on the theme “Bees and Biodiversity: New Cooperations” held in the European Parliament.

During the opening session, **MEP Mariya Gabriel** began her introductory statement by expressing her satisfaction at the wide number of interlocutors and stakeholders present and each and everyone’s active participation throughout the week.

She later proceeded to identify **two areas where progress and new forms of cooperation** could be pursued. First a **geographical collaboration** between all regions affected by the issue of declining bee health and second, **enhanced exchange and dialogue** between farmers, beekeepers and





scientists. **MEP Gabriel's long-standing action in favour of bee protection and beekeepers** was rewarded by some of Bee Week's historical partners who surprised her with flowers.

Her speech was followed by a keynote video of **Mr. Phil Hogan** – Commissioner of Agriculture & Rural Development. The Commissioner **voiced his support for the Bee Week initiative**, pointing to the key role these animals play in our ecosystems.

**Mr. Pekka Pesonen**, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca, then took the floor to emphasize the importance of raising awareness on the topic of bees and beekeepers. He highlighted the necessity to find new ways of cooperation in order to ensure crop diversity, share knowledge and develop common strategies. Mr. Pesonen **highlighted the fact that exchanging informations and data could help detect diseases among bee colonies and increase security of crops in Europe**.

Giving the concluding remarks of the opening session, **Mrs. Barbara Pesce Monteiro**, the UN-UNDP Director in Brussels, underlined the importance of finding alternatives, based on new technologies, for the preservation of bee life. Mrs. Monteiro **warned against the use of pesticides that she considers being the main enemy to bees and global market**. Mrs. Monteiro also introduced the bottom-up approach, which coincides with Mrs. Gabriel's views on this matter. Indeed, she stressed the importance of establishing a proper dialogue between beekeepers and farmers which should stimulate sharing and development on mutual interests.

### **Panel 1 : Collaborations for solutions**

During the introductory remarks of the first panel, **MEP Marijana Petir, also a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)**, highlighted the significance of cooperation between the different stakeholders. Mrs. Petir condemned the negative externalities related to our human activities that have a strong impact on pollination. Mrs. Petir also stressed the **importance of the declining rates of bee colonies**. She underlined the **crucial contribution of science** as well as the adoption of adequate measures in tackling this issue.

**Agnes Rortais** presented the bee science event: "Collecting and sharing data on bee health: Towards a European Bee Partnership". As a member of the EFSA, Mrs. Rortais mentioned the current work undertaken by her association in developing a holistic approach.

EFSA is establishing new activities and tools that aim to gather better evidence data and developing new methodologies and instruments in order to better understand the new phenomena of bee decline. The **framework currently employed by EFSA is based on three key elements: data assessing and availability, data collection and data analysis and communication**.

Mrs. Rortais assured the audience that EFSA is taking concrete actions and is therefore expecting tangible solutions. *“We want to expand our activities to other – wild bees, because pollination is essential. We need the support of all relevant DGs and citizens involved in this process”.*



**Simon G. Potts** from IPBES conveyed the importance of pollinators, pollination and food production. Firstly, we need to be aware of the wide range of benefits in recent times – the rate of Global Agriculture has increased, which has led to an increase in food production and consumption. The **amount of food relying on pollinators has increased by 23%**. Moreover, the economic value of the annual market linked to pollination is between €211-515 billion. Mr. Potts stressed the necessity to think beyond the European framework given the external risks posed by invasive species and climate change. *“Our health is interlinked to pollinators – the majority of vitamins come from crops pollinated by bees”.* Mr. Potts put emphasis on the land use change, the provision of food and places to live. In particular, **a suggestion for managing and restoring native habitat practices, establishing protected areas and increase habitat heterogeneity**, was formulated. In regards to the intensive agriculture, Mr. Potts emphasized the importance of creating patches of flower rich habitat, supporting organic farming, and strengthening existing diversified farming systems.

**Humberto Delgado Rosa** from DG ENVI, formulated proposals for further integration at the European level in the fields of agriculture, environment and health. *“Pollination has a strong power to bring change in the context of the ecosystem. 9% of bees are threatened for extinction. Domestic bees, other bees, butterflies and other animals have a role in pollination”.* Mr. Rosa suggested mapping and assessing the ecosystems. *“The ultimate goal is to integrate ecosystem in decision-making. We must not take ecosystems for granted”.* **DG ENVI is working on improving current conditions for pollinators.** Structural policies, such as the The Common Agricultural Policy, need reinforced implementation. On a final note, when mentioned the

threat posed to pollination by the use of pesticides, **Mr. Rosa suggested a solution based on integrated pest management.**

**Francoiz Diaz** was representing the World Organization for Animal Health. Mr. Diaz presented his views regarding sanitary cooperation. OIE's Global mandate is to improve animal health worldwide. **Transparency of the world disease situation is crucial for the beekeepers and veterinarians**, combined with sanitary safety in the international trade of animals. *"All the countries have to notify about the epidemiological situation. The OIE's standards enhance the safe trade between countries"*. Mr. Diaz emphasized on the achievements and regulations implied by the OIE. Lastly, the speaker presented the Sixth OIE Strategic Plan and its potential future activities, which include the reviewing and updating the bee disease list, presented by the OIE, and what is more – **work thoroughly on invasive alien species, in particular the varroa**. Putting efforts in the sanitary cooperation between different international organizations is also one of the main priorities of OIE.

**Vincenzo Panettieri**, President of FedApiméd, highlighted the necessity of cooperation, especially in the Mediterranean Basin. Fed Apiméd's strategic objectives include working on the quality of honey and bee-hive products. As an apicultural organization, Mr. Panettieri appealed to **more market transparency and policies that enhance the protection of beekeeping, while applying the principles allowing us to preserve biodiversity**. In particular he stressed the necessity to promote good relations with local and national governments as well as developing the right regulations on a national market level and a right framework for the beekeeping sector. It is important that we have the right regulations on a national market level and a right framework for the beekeeping sector. Moreover, the creation of an alliance between farmers, beekeepers, civil society and public institutions should be promoted: *"We need the support of the UN and the EU"* he appealed. Mr. Panettieri stressed the need to consider beekeeping as an integral plan of sustainable development plans, both at the local and EU-levels. Regarding sales, appropriate procedures shall be adopted to validate the products that are placed on the markets. An important remark to promote the inclusion of women in the beekeeping sector, was made.

**Francesco Panella**, the president of Bee-Life: *"National and local networks are increasing, but we don't have a European network for beekeeping"*. Mr. Panella mentioned **the importance of natural balance in urban and rural areas**. Specifically, he argued that medication indeed used to solve many of the problems associated with diseases and viruses, but that nowadays we should strive for finding a right natural balance. Indeed bees are the proper bio-indicators that help us sustain this balance. Mr. Panella also **highlighted the importance of promoting food for bees as a tool for economic development**. *"An important objective is to create a European network for bee-friendly cities. We are dealing with this issue from a cultural point of view and we need to focus on improving the society"*.

**Gilles Dryancour**, from CEMA, introduced the market niche of bee-friendly machinery. *"Farmers need reliable materials that ensure sustainable crops. And we need farmers – thus, the necessity of pollination for farm production, arises"*. Bees and pollinators allows the

industry to sell the materials – bee-friendly machinery. Therefore, due to the fact that bee population is declining, the machinery production could be affected. Mr. Dryancour and CEMA created **an award for scientists working on the repopulation on bumblebees**. Moreover, they introduced an award for intra-institutional cooperation among private companies, beekeepers and other stakeholders. *“We need improved machinery tools for saving bees”*. What is more, incorporating bio-fuels in the machinery sector is also essential nowadays for preserving the bio-diversity and ecosystem. Mr. Dryancour **mentioned drones as an efficient technology to monitor bees**.

**Panel 2: Beekeeping and agriculture: a sustainable win-win. Focus on pollination.**

**Mihail Dimitru**, from DG AGRI in the European Commission, delivered a presentation on the topic of modernizing and simplifying the CAP. He stressed the importance of fostering environmentally friendly policies and practices. With regards to the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar of the CAP model, he emphasized the rural development sector and the need to contribute to the environmental objectives – biodiversity and pollination. *“Better management is enhanced through better knowledge and dialogue”*. Mr. Dimitru said that working together with the broad side of stakeholders is the best solution against the declining rates of pollination. This could be achieved through better dialogue and cooperation, market simplification and increased knowledge stemming from various research projects. Moreover, he drew attention on the need to improve the environmental quality – **DG AGRI has introduced 13 modifications that encourage farmers to take more initiative and land area for their production**. Last but not least, Mr. Dimitru emphasized the different means through which the CAP model contributes to the main objective – sustainability and continuity.



**Alberto Arroyo Schnell**, from the IUCN (which stands for International Union for Conservation of the Nature), spoke about the Red List of Bees - a project created by the IUCN. It is a widely used list, which aims to raise awareness on the topics of biodiversity conservation globally. **The IUCN concluded that 9% of bees are threatened by extinction and that**

**57% of species are data deficient, while more than 30% of bee species are declining.** In the absence of animal pollination, the economic net loss is estimated to be hundreds of billions of dollars he remarked. Mr. Schnell emphasized that if the problem is to be tackled artificially or superficially, it will be very costly. The speaker appealed to global institutions such as the EU to develop strategic actions to help protect European pollinators.

**Etienne Bruneau**, from the Copa-Cogeca, presented the conclusions of the forum which had taken place on the previous day on the topic of Beekeepers' and farmers' needs of cooperation. *"How can we face climate change? - Mr. Bruneau asked - Are we going to adapt or disappear?"* Honey bees have high adaptation capacity because they live in tropical areas. For other pollinators it is much more difficult – bumblebees are not as adaptable. We experience a huge drop in productions because of the climate change phenomena - and water is crucial for the bees. *"We can help farmers and beekeepers with non-intrusive tools. New technologies help us get information without being on the spot. They help facilitate the work of beekeepers"*. Moreover, Mr. Bruneau stands for the idea of promotion of diversity – *"we should use risk areas and turn them into opportunity areas for pollination"*, he said. He reiterated the need to diversify crops.

**Philippe Lecompte**, a professional organic beekeeper and spokesperson for the Bees Biodiversity Network, reiterated the evolution of farmland and rural environment. Given the fact that we **currently experience a decline in production, and we do not have enough data in beekeeping, we need to fill in this gap to have a clear overview of the situation.** Mr. Lecompte placed emphasis on the declining rates of bees and bee production, especially in France: *"We have had a new decline from 38,000 tons of honey to 9,000 tons of honey per year. Therefore we have had to compensate this by raising the price of honey. Nevertheless, currently we have had to take the price down because of perfect market and competition"*. Mr. Lecompte pointed to the negative impact of new pathologies affecting bees in France and Europe as more parasites are coming because of international transport. *"The CAP reform of 1992 eliminated the flowering forest margins, because farmers had to buy equipment and they would simply destroy the margins of the forest. Thus, we had a decline in the resources for bees because of that"*. Mr. Lecompte also **stressed the complex dietary balance of bees**: they need pollen in sufficient quantities throughout the year, with high nutritional value and from a variety of species.

**Yvan Hennion and Laurent Bourdil** presented a workshop for innovations involving beekeepers and farmers. According to Mr. Hennion and Mr. Bourdil, agricultural evolution contributed to the shaping of the radical change we are experiencing. The flora is decreasing – quantity and quality wise. They argued that **farmers need to feel a sense of ownership of the decision-making processes vis-à-vis potential reforms the agricultural sector.** Moreover in case of binding obligations, farmers need to have a mapping exercise and a list of the appropriate dates by which to meet those obligations in order to be able to plan and adapt practices which have often been in place for centuries: *"We need to make sure that farmers keep on working and protecting their crop. Farmers cannot change completely their methods over a night"* Mr Bourdil declared. **Awareness-raising initiatives and training courses as**



well as **additonal public subsidies** were among the ideas put forward in order to enhance the dialogue between actors and promote good practices.

### **Panel 3: Economic cooperations for sustainable honey production and biodiversity**

**MEP Mairead McGuinness**, Vice-President of the European Parliament and a member of Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), introduced the third panel on the topic of economic cooperation for sustainable honey production and biodiversity. *“This is about money”* Mrs. McGuinness highlighted. One of the **most important questions that must be answered, ultimately, is who is going to pay for the necessary research for products that beekeepers may need** in terms of disease control? The third panel provided a forum for scientists, honey packers’ and distributors’ first-hand opinions and the Commission’s perspective. *“We are ahead of our time, since we started working on this project a few years ago”* Mrs. McGuinness reminded the audience. She echoed the sentiment of previous participants by agreeing that we need to **use nature, and particularly bees, as a barometer for health and wealth.**



**Scientific director of the Bee Week Dr. Bach Kim Nguyen** from the University of Liège, delivered a presentation on the need to **promote cooperation between researchers**. In his opening remarks Dr. Bach Kim Nguyen elaborated on the difficulties that the scientific world is facing when it comes to cooperation. *“There is also competition in the scientific world. The institutional competition between the universities means that scientists compete with one another about whose publications are the best”*. In our modern world where everything is changing very fast, Dr. Nguyen said: *“We need to provide an answer on the very next date but it doesn’t work like that when it comes to addressing bees’ mortality”*. According to Dr. Nguyen, **three of the main factors for bee mortality are: pollution, biodiversity, diseases**. He pointed out that scientists are put under pressure because of the need to operate fast and give quick answers. *“This is putting a pressure on scientists – it is considered a success only*

*if you publish academic articles”*. Dr. Nguyen ended his intervention by asking whether such a thing as a sound and healthy competition in the scientific world exists: ***“It is not that easy, scientists need more time to answer questions and to validate their researches”***.

In his opening remarks **Andrea Gavinelli**, from DG SANTE in the European Commission, introduced the question regarding the capacity of the Union to support fair trade, and to what extent it is plausible. He **mentioned the new regulation N° 095/2017, published in the official’s journal in April 2017, which serves as a strong instrument in ensuring efficiency of control, in terms of the control of animals and plants in the EU**. Mr. Gavinelli elaborated on the food fraud witnessed nowadays, making the topic one of the central points of his speech: *“We are not verifying the compliance of all agricultural products. And this has to change, given that food authenticity is valued in trade and it is the only factor that gains consumer trust”*. He deplored the absence of a benchmarking system that is harmonized within the EU borders. Mr. Gavinelli’s **suggestion was that the EU needs more cooperation between member states** in order to create an internal market that is fair through three successive steps. First, a more harmonized control along the whole agri-food chain; second, a stronger legal basis to fight fraud and finally, greater transparency and efficiency.

**Frank Filodda**, from the European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors, delivered a presentation on the **topic of fair pricing for beekeeping products**. Mr. Filodda’s introductory remarks presented some of the various products from the hive: bee pollen, honey, bee products, and others. He raised the question of why beekeepers keep bees. And his answer was either passion or profession. Mr. Filodda remarked that **for the majority of beekeepers, beekeeping is not really a full-time nor a financially viable business**. Honey production has competition, like in other sectors, and there are other substitute goods like jams and sweet creams. What is more, the cost of production is not estimated by the beekeepers. The EU has tried to find what the cost of production of honey is, however the results were very biased and it was very challenging to fix one price for honey production. A good point for consideration, mentioned by Mr. Filodda was the **cost of packaging and transportation which are too often left out of the beekeeping sector equation**.

**Diego Pagani**, representing CONAPI, delivered a thorough presentation on the topic of the evolution of costs of production in apiculture. There has been an increase in the number of bee hives, but **beekeepers currently face challenges in the production sector**. The increase in honey, made from citrus fruit and acacia, resulted in an increase in the number of bee hives. Thus, for a successful trade market, beekeepers need to invest in organic pollen. However, a lot of problems were identified according to Mr. Pagani. The latest data indicates that there are 45,000 beekeepers and 19,000 of them are professionals, having 800,000 bee hives. Beekeepers made significant investments to differentiate their production, said Mr. Pagani. Some of the problems which were identified were concerning chemicals, found in random samples coming from organic companies. At the end of his speech, Mr. Pagani gave an example about his “young” Italian beekeeping company producing organic products. The company is responsible

for the daily pollination of a region, which is 10 times larger than the city of Brussels. The average production of the company drastically decreased, whereas bee hives had to increase from 200 to 900.

**Benjamin Charles**, from UPV (a veterinarian union), elaborated on the **examination of bee pathologies treatments**. He raised the following question: *“Can we cure a bee? – Yes, we can cure colonies of bees. Vets have an impact on animal health and also an important role in the food chain”*. He appealed for support in the recent development of the Bee-Vet - a network that promotes communication among practitioners and other vets and the exchange of information regarding different treatments. The UPV provides training courses for students and



other interested people. Moreover, a framework towards guidance for beekeepers who are veterinarians was recently established. Mr. Charles **emphasized that the relations between beekeepers and veterinarians is a contract based on trust, signed by the vet and the beekeeper**. As a final note, Mr. Charles spoke about UPV's main priorities: to reinforce the relations between vets and beekeepers, to train veterinarians to be competent and skilled, and to promote international cooperation. He also presented the web platform [www.varoa.be](http://www.varoa.be) destined to support apiarists on a technical level in their fight against varroa.

**MEP Michel Dantin** gave the final talk of the Bee Week, remarking that each edition had paved the way for innovative solutions and enriching ideas. He reminded the audience of the evolution of the Bee Week and its scope: with every passing year, the framework of issues to be tackled and the attention it has received has grown. *“We will have to do everything we can to facilitate cooperation between actors in the field, land owners and bee hive owners. We will have to create a benchmark, listing all the stakeholders that are willing to move forward for the sake of this partnership”* Mr Dantin declared. He **paid tribute to former MEP Gaston Franco for launching the Bee Week and to MEP Mariya Gabriel** for having successfully taken over this initiative until today.

## IV. Annexes

### A. Agenda of the Scientific Symposium

#### 26 June 2017, Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Time	Items
08.15-09:00	Registration of participants
<b>SESSION 1   PLENARY SESSION</b>	
09:00	<b>Welcome &amp; introduction to Bee Week event</b> <i>M. Gabriel, MEP, European Parliament</i>
09:20	<b>Introduction to EFSA</b> <i>H. Deluyker, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i>
09:30	<b>Bee Health – European Commission Inter-service Working Group activities</b> <i>L. Kuster, DG SANTE, European Commission</i>
09:40	<b>Overview of past scientific colloquiums of Bee Week event</b> <i>K. N’Guyen, University of Liege, BE</i>
09:50	<b>Video presentation on EFSA’s MUST-B project</b>
10:00	<b>Objective of the colloquium</b> <i>S. More, University College Dublin, IE</i>
10:10	<b>Overview of Discussion Group 1</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HEALTHY-B toolbox and application of Health Status Index</b> <i>P. Hendrikx, ANSES, FR</i></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Beekeepers' involvement and needs</b> <i>W. Haefeker, European Professional Beekeepers Association (EPBA), BE</i></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bee scientists' involvement and needs</b> <i>M. Brown, Animal &amp; Plant Health Agency, UK</i></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bee health data within the crop protection industry</b> <i>A. Alix, European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), BE</i></li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bee health monitoring and pollination</b> <i>S. van der Steen, Wageningen University, NL</i></li></ul>
11:10	Coffee/tea break
11:40	<b>Overview of Discussion Group 2</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Honey bee colony model (ApisRAM) for risk assessment</b> <i>C. Topping, Aarhus University, DK</i></li></ul>

Time	Items
08.15-09:00	Registration of participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colony monitoring at landscape level</b> <i>M. Wang, WSC Scientific GmbH, DE</i></li> <li>• <b>Knowledge Junction &amp; information sharing</b> <i>J. Richardson, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> <li>• <b>Bee Health Workbench</b> <i>A.J. Thomas, Oxford Internet Institute, UK</i></li> </ul>
12:40	Lunch break and networking
<b>SESSION 2   PANEL DISCUSSIONS</b>	
	<p><b>Panel discussion on Discussion Group 1   Stakeholder collaboration to establish holistic bee health monitoring in the field</b></p> <p>Chairpeople:</p> <p>13:40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>P. Hendrikx, ANSES, FR</i></li> <li>◦ <i>E. Bruneau, COPA-COGECA, BE</i></li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>F. Verdonck, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> <li>◦ <i>S. Vos, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Panel discussion on Discussion Group 2   Better data collection and access for better bee health risk assessment</b></p> <p>Chairpeople</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>C. Topping, Aarhus University, DK</i></li> <li>◦ <i>N. Simon Delso, Bee Life, BE</i></li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>A. Rortais, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> <li>◦ <i>C. Szentes, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> </ul>
15:10	Coffee/tea break
<b>SESSION 3   PLENARY SESSION</b>	
15:40	<p><b>Report back from Discussion Group 1 + Q&amp;A</b> <i>F. Verdonck, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></p>
15:50	<p><b>Report back from Discussion Group 2 + Q&amp;A</b> <i>A. Rortais, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></p>



Time	Items
08.15-09:00	Registration of participants
16:00	<p><b>Discussion Group 3   European Bee Partnership</b></p> <p>Chairpeople</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>T. Robinson, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> <li>◦ <i>K. N'Guyen, University of Liege, BE</i></li> </ul> <p>Rapporteurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>S. Pagani, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> <li>◦ <i>A. Afonso, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>EFSA Stakeholder Engagement Approach</b>  <i>G. Kumric, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></p> <p><b>What is the vision of the European Bee Partnership?</b>  (16:10)  <i>T. Robinson, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</i></p> <p><b>Panel discussion (16:15)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>W. Haefeker, European Professional Beekeepers Association (EPBA), BE</i></li> <li>• <i>P. Neumann, COLOSS (Prevention of honey bee Colony LOSSes), CH</i></li> <li>• <i>M. Dermine, Save the Bees Campaign Coordinator, Pesticide Action, Network Europe (Pan-Europe), BE</i></li> <li>• <i>A. Alix, European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), BE</i></li> </ul>
17:40	<p><b>EU funded research on bees and pollinators (FP7 and H2020)</b>  <i>JC Cavitte, DG AGRI, European Commission</i></p>
17:50	<p><b>Concluding remarks</b>  <i>S. More, University College Dublin, IE</i></p>
18:00	Honey beer tasting

*B. Agenda of the 27th : Workshop, Dialogue, Forum, Exhibition and Discovery Night*



**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Bees and Biodiversity: new cooperations***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**09:00-20:00**

**European Parliament, Brussels**





**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Workshop for a European Network of Bee-Friendly Cities***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**09:00-10:45**

**Room ASP 5G1**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Hosted by

**Michel DANTIN MEP**

Chair of the “Agriculture and Water Management” working group of the EP  
Intergroup

*“Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development”*

*in cooperation with*

**United Nations Development Programme**

**FELCOS Umbria**

Interpretation: EN, FR, HR, BG, AR

[Room capacity: 55 people](#)

## AGENDA

**09:00-09:05**     **Introductory remarks by MEP Michel DANTIN**

**09:05-09:15**     **Case study 1: the city of Chambéry (France)**

Aloïs Chassot, Municipal councillor to sustainable development, new technologies, energy transition and communication

**09:15-09:25**     **Case study 2: the city of Brussels (Belgium)**

Julien Ruelle, Bruxelles Environnement - IBGE / Leefmilieu Brussel - BIM Division  
Espaces verts

**09:25-09:35**     **Case study 3: the city of Stockholm (Sweden)**

Lars Hellander, Organic beekeeper and farmer and member of the board of projects  
“Bin I stan” and “Stockholm hem”

**09:35-09:50**     **Case study 4: South Mediterranean and Italy**

Lucia Madolli, Vice-Director of FELCOS Umbria, International coordinator of  
*Mediterranean CooBEEration* project

M. Giovanni Patriarchi, city of Foligno (Italy), Municipal councillor to economic  
development, agriculture and rural development

**09:50-10:40**     **Follow up questions by MEPs**

Q&A with the audience

**10:40-10:45**     **Closing remarks by MEP Michel DANTIN**







**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on beekeeping***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**11:00-13:00**

**Room ASP A3E-2**

**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 »*

*in cooperation with*

**Mediterranean CooBEEration: a network for beekeeping, biodiversity & food safety**

**United Nations Development Programme**

**FELCOS Umbria**

**Federation of Mediterranean Beekeepers**

Interpretation: EN, FR, HR, BG, AR, IT

Room capacity: 100 people

## **AGENDA**

- 11.00-11:15      Opening session**
- Mariya Gabriel, Member of the European Parliament
- Martino Miraglia, Consultant for Global Policy and Programme Support (UNDP)
- Stefano Dotto, Head of sector Environment & Agriculture Regional Projects, DG NEAR
- 
- 11:15-11:25      Presentation of the project “Mediterranean cooBEEration: a network for apiculture, biodiversity and food safety”**
- Lucia Maddoli, FELCOS Umbria, International coordinator of the project
- 
- 11:25-11:40      Euro-Mediterranean dialogue**
- Vincenzo Panettieri, President of the Federation of Apiculturists in the Mediterranean (APIMED)
- 
- Presentation of European apiculture and the Hone Working Group**
- Etienne Bruneau, President of the WG on Honey of the Copa-Cogeca
- 
- 11:40-11:50      Shared priorities for common challenges**
- Mohammed Hamzaoui, National Associations of Professional Apiculturists of Algeria (ANAP)
- 
- 11:50-12:00      Diego Pagani, President of the National Consortium of Apiculturists (CONAPI)**
- 
- 12:00-12:10      The importance of the ecosystem service of honey bees for biodiversity**
- Claudio Porrini, Département des Sciences Agricoles de l’Université de Bologne

<b>12:10-12:20</b>	<b>Pesticides: a universal problem</b>  Mohammed Alrababah, Association of Jordanian Apiculturists
<b>12:20-12:30</b>	<b>Noa Delso Simon, BeeLife</b>
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<b>Discussion and Conclusions</b>

## LUNCH

*(not an organised event; participants can choose between the canteen on the ground floor of the European Parliament's Altiero Spinelli building or the JAN BRASSERIE (level 3) of the József Antall building)*

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE BEEKEEPERS AND FARMERS FORUM, PLEASE RECONVENE AT 14.00 IN ROOM ASP 5G1**





**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Forum Beekeepers & Farmers: Measures & tools on how to adapt together to climate change***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**14:00-16:00**

**Room ASP 5G1**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Hosted by

**Marijana Petir MEP**

*in cooperation with*

**Copa-Cogeca, European Farmers European Agri-Cooperatives**

Interpretation: EN, FR, HR, BG, AR

Room capacity: 55 people



## **AGENDA**

- 14:00-14:05**      **Welcoming speech by MEP Marijana Petir**
- 14:05-14:10**      **Introduction by Max Schulman, Chair of Copa-Cogeca's Working Party on Cereals, Chair of the Forum**
- 14:10-14:50**      **Exchange of views on the impact of climate change on farming and beekeeping practices**
- Ankica Dušević, Secretary of the Croatian Beekeepers Federation
- Radostin Dimitrov, Business Development Executive at Bee Smart Technologies
- Lars Gustaf Hellander, Board member of the Swedish Beekeepers Association
- 14:50-15:25**      **Exchange of views on measures from the first pillar of the CAP**
- Beekeeper/farmer from France (TBC)
- 15:25-15:50**      **Exchange of views on measures from the second pillar of the CAP**
- Angela Garofalo, Dipartimento Sviluppo Agroalimentare e Territorio, CIA
- Sofia Björnsson, Chair of Copa-Cogeca's Working Party on Rural Development
- 15:50-16:00**      **Conclusions by Max Schulman, Chair of Copa-Cogeca's Working Party on Cereals**



**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Exhibition “Bees and humans, a fascinating relationship”***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**16:00-18:00**

**Mezzanine Menuhin, PHS 2nd Floor**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Hosted by

**Mariya Gabriel MEP, Michel Dantin MEP, Mairead McGuinness  
MEP, Marijana Petir MEP, Frédérique Ries MEP, Nathalie Griesbeck  
MEP, John Procter MEP**

*in partnership with*

**CARI**

No interpretation



## **EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Discovery night***

**Tuesday 27 June 2017**

**18:00-20:00**

**Brasserie JAN 03Q**

**European Parliament, Brussels**

Hosted by

**Mariya Gabriel MEP, Michel Dantin MEP, Mairead McGuinness  
MEP, Marijana Petir MEP, Frédérique Ries MEP, Nathalie Griesbeck  
MEP, John Procter MEP**

*in partnership with*

**Réseau Biodiversité pour les abeilles**

**Beelife**

### **AGENDA**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>18:00-18:15</b> | <b>Introductory remarks by MEPs Mariya Gabriel, John Procter and Nathalie Griesbeck</b> |
| <b>18:15-18:20</b> | <b>Presentation of honey-based perfume bottles by M. Dejan Lavčević</b>                 |
| <b>18:20-20:00</b> | <b>Tasting of honey-based products and cocktails</b>                                    |

*C. Agenda of the High-Level Conference*



**CONFERENCE**

**EUROPEAN WEEK OF BEES AND POLLINATION - 6TH EDITION**

# ***Bees & Biodiversity: new cooperations***

**Wednesday 28 June 2017**

**10:00-18:00**

**Room PHS 5B001**

**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 Michel Dantin, Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Nathalie Griesbeck,  
Frédérique Ries, John Procter



Since 2012, the European Bee and Pollination Week is held every year in the European Parliament in Brussels. This meeting has become a must-attend event and brings together all stakeholders in the sector: European MPs, representatives of the Commission and European institutions, beekeepers, farmers, scientists, veterinarians, manufacturers, NGOs and citizens. Together, they exchange proposals with public authorities to promote a sustainable beekeeping chain capable of ensuring the sustainability of the valuable service of pollination and its consequences: ecosystem services, biodiversity, production and food security.

After recalling the original multifactorial approach of bee mortality observed throughout the world, after stressing the need for better collaboration between stakeholders through dialogue and mutual respect, the stakeholders historically involved in the European Bee and Pollination Week have called for the establishment of an operational technical platform to improve exchanges between beekeepers and scientists. This edition is marked by the willingness and commitment of EFSA to help stakeholders to set up this platform. The first working groups to define the outlines and the priority needs will be held during this 6th edition of the Bee Week.

This year, the beekeepers of the Mediterranean basin will contribute to enrich our discussions and to draw the outlines of the new operations around the beekeeping chain.

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

Welcome remarks by **Mariya Gabriel MEP**

Keynote video by **Phil Hogan, Commissioner of Agriculture & Rural Development**

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

Opening address by **Barbara Pesce Monteiro, UN-UNDP Director in Brussels**





## Panel 1 – Collaborations for solutions

**Chaired by MEP Marijana Petir**

This panel emphasizes the necessary multi-actors cooperation: scientific, technical, sanitary, environmental, cultural, economic... Relying on the conclusions of the preparatory work to the operational establishment of an exchange platform led by EFSA, the speakers could illustrate concretely the needs but also give examples of effective responses.

- 11:00-11:05**    Introductory remarks by **MEP Petir**
  
- 11:05-11:15**    Presentation of bee science event – “Collecting and sharing data on bee health: Towards a European Bee Partnership  
**Agnes Rortais, EFSA, Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit**
  
- 11:15-11:25**    Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production  
**IPBES / Simon G. Potts**
  
- 11:25-11:35**    IPBES Recommendations: proposals for integration in EU policy linked to Agriculture, Environment and Health  
**Humberto Delgado Rosa, DG ENVI - European Commission**
  
- 11:35-11:45**    Sanitarian cooperation  
**François Diaz, World Organisation for Animal Health**
  
- 11:45-11:55**    Needs of cooperation: Mediterranean basin  
**Vincenzo Panettieri, President of Fedapimed**
  
- 11:55-12:05**    Needs of cooperation: new bee-friendly cities  
**Francesco Panella, President Bee Life**
  
- 12:05-12:15**    Innovation: bee-friendly machinery  
**Gilles Dryancour, CEMA**
  
- 12:15-12:40**    Follow up questions  
**Q&A with the audience**
  
- 12:40-12:45**    Closing remarks by **MEP Griesbeck**



## **Panel 2 – Beekeeping & agriculture: A sustainable win-win. Focus on pollination**

**Chaired by MEP Michel Dantin**

The second panel focuses on the win-win relationships between beekeepers and farmers. The pollination is ensured by the crops of others that allow the bees to feed and to produce honey. This process of pollination can only be adequately understood by taking into account wild pollinators. Through field examples, the question of the Common Agricultural Policy, meaning the policy and regulatory common framework, will be asked.

- 14:15-14:20**    Introductory remarks by **MEP Dantin**
  
- 14:20-14:30**    Modernising and simplifying the CAP  
**Mihail Dumitru, DDG AGRI - European Commission**
  
- 14:30-14:40**    Pollinators in the EU: a need for action  
**Alberto Arroyo Schnell, IUCN**
  
- 14:40-14:50**    Beekeepers and farmers needs of cooperation. Conclusions of the forum  
**Etienne Bruneau, Copa-Cogeca**
  
- 14:50-15:00**    Evolution of farmland and rural environment: which impact on bees  
**Philippe Lecompte, professional organic beekeeper, Bees Biodiversity Network**
  
- 15:00-15:20**    Workshop for innovations with beekeepers and farmers  
**Yvan Hennion (FNSEA) & Laurent Bourdil (FOP, ANAMSO)**
  
- 15:20-15:35**    Follow up questions  
**Q&A with the audience**
  
- 15:35-15:40**    Closing remarks by **MEP Procter**



## **Panel 3 – Economic cooperations for sustainable honey production and biodiversity**

**Chaired by MEP Mairead McGuinness**

No sector can be sustainable without resting on strong economic balances. It is the stake of this last panel that intends to address, without taboos, the economic questions related to the market, the expectations of the consumer, the constraints of producers and the distributors. The structural financing of elements that are difficult to make profitable or can't be redeemed is also posed: from taking responsibility for the research of veterinary solutions to that of environmental policy able to offer a quality bee bowl for bees. We shall try to find an answer to a question: "who pays?". On this questions rests the future of the sector.

- 16:00-16:05**    Introductory remarks by **MEP Mairead McGuinness**
  
- 16:05-16:15**    Scientific research and economic aspects  
**Dr. Bach Kim Nguyen, University of Liège (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech), BeeOdiversity**
  
- 16:15-16:25**    Official controls to protect the authentic honey supply chain  
**Andrea Gavinelli, Head of unit 3, Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals**
  
- 16:25-16:35**    Fair price and fair market for beekeeping products  
**Frank Filodda, European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors**
  
- 16:35-16:45**    Evolution of costs of production in apiculture  
**Diego Pagani, CONAPI**
  
- 16:45-16:55**    Search on bees pathologies treatments. Focus on product against Varroa  
**Dr. Benjamin Charles, UPV**
  
- 16:55-17:10**    Follow up questions  
**Q&A with the audience**
  
- 17:10-17:20**    Closing remarks by **MEP Michel Dantin**

## *D. Our partner organisations*

### **Historical partners**



❖ **LE RESEAU BIODIVERSITE POUR LES ABEILLES - NGO**



❖ **INTERGROUPE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE, BIODIVERSITE ET DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**



❖ **UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE GEMBLoux AGRO-BIO TECH**



❖ **BEE-LIFE**



❖ **BEEODIVERSITY**

## 2017 partners



❖ **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

<http://www.undp.org/>



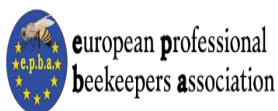
❖ **European Food Safety Authority**

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>



❖ **Felcos Umbria**

<http://www.felcos.it/>



❖ **European Professional Beekeepers Association**

<http://www.professional-beekeepers.eu/>



❖ **The Mediterranean Beekeepers Association (FED APIMED)**

[http://www.fedapimed.com/home\\_en.html](http://www.fedapimed.com/home_en.html)



❖ **The European Commission**

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news_en)



❖ **Cooperation campaign, Mediterranean cooperation**

<http://www.cooperationcampaign.org/en/>



## *E. Biographies of speakers*

### ❖ **Mariya Gabriel**

#### **Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) | Bulgaria**



**Mariya Gabriel** is a Bulgarian Member of the European Parliament, elected from the list of GERB/EPP. During her first mandate as MEP (2009-2014), she was a very active member of the committee on Agriculture and rural development and worked in particular on issues related to bee health and beekeeping. At the beginning of her second mandate, in 2015, she became Vice-President of the EP Intergroup on Climate change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and created the first Working Group dedicated to Apiculture and Bee health which she chairs. In this position, after having participated to all the previous editions of the European Week of Bees and Pollination, she took over the organisation for the fourth and the fifth editions. At the national level, Mrs Gabriel works very closely with the Bulgarian beekeepers and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Apart from bee related topics, Mrs Gabriel is the EPP Group Vice-President responsible for the relations with the Southern neighborhood of the EU and the Head of the Bulgarian EPP Group Delegation. In 2011, she was appointed Chief Observer of the EU Electoral Observation Mission for presidential and parliamentary elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo under the recommendation of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton. As a very active member of the committees AFET, LIBE and FEMM and the delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP EU, Mariya Gabriel received twice the MEP Award: in 2013 in the category 'Gender Equality', in 2016 in the category 'Development'.

Website: [www.mariya-gabriel.eu](http://www.mariya-gabriel.eu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Mariya-Gabriel-456805764356097](https://www.facebook.com/Mariya-Gabriel-456805764356097)

Twitter: @GabrielMariya

### ❖ **Michel Dantin**

#### **Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) | France**



**Michel Dantin** is a French politician and MEP for the French South-East constituency and Mayor of Chambéry since 2014. He is a member of The Republican political party. He served in various professional agricultural organisations in Savoie, French department. In 2007, he is appointed General Inspector for Agriculture. Between 2002 and 2009, he is successively member in the cabinet of Ministers for Agriculture Hervé Gaymard, Dominique Bussereau and Michel Barnier. As a local elected representative, Michel Dantin is Municipal Councillor since 1983 and is elected Mayor of Chambéry in 2014. He is also elected at the Departmental Council of Savoie from 1985 to 1998.

In the 2009 European elections, he was a candidate on The Republicans list in the South-East region. In the European Parliament, he is a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

(ENVI) and of the Commission of Inquiry for Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS). He also sits as a member of the delegation for relations with Switzerland and Norway, the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Deeply involved in the field of water and aquatic environment protection, Michel Dantin is President of Water Bassin Rhône-Méditerranée-Corse since 2008, of the Bassin of The Bourget lake since 1999, and of the inter trade-union sanitation committee of The Bourget lake since 2008.

Website: [www.micheldantin.net](http://www.micheldantin.net)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MDantin/>

## ❖ Nathalie Griesbeck

Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe | France



**Nathalie Griesbeck** is a French politician and MEP for the French East constituency since 2004. She is a member of the French Democrat Movement (MoDem) and a member of the political group ADLE at the European Parliament. From 1988 to 2015, Nathalie Griesbeck has been general counselor of the Moselle, for the district of Metz-town-3, and vice-chair of the General-Council from 2011 to 2015.

At the European Parliament, Nathalie Griesbeck is member of the Committee on Civil liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and member of the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (DACP). Moreover, she is substitute in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), in the Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion (PANA) and in the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (DLAT).

Website: [www.nathalie-griesbeck.fr](http://www.nathalie-griesbeck.fr)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Nathalie-Griesbeck](https://www.facebook.com/Nathalie-Griesbeck)

Twitter: @Nat\_GRIESBECK

## ❖ Mairead McGuinness

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) | Ireland



**Mairead McGuinness**, Fine Gael MEP for Midlands, North-West, is Vice-President of the European Parliament and serves on the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. She serves on the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the countries of South Asia and is Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee. Elected as an MEP in June 2004, she was re-elected in June 2009 and again in May 2014. In 2011 she was voted MEP of the Year for Agriculture by her colleagues. Prior to becoming an MEP she was a well-known journalist, broadcaster and commentator.

Website: [www.maireadmccguinness.ie](http://www.maireadmccguinness.ie)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mairead.mccguinness.5](https://www.facebook.com/mairead.mccguinness.5)

Twitter: @MaireadMcGMEP

## ❖ Marijana Petir

### Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) | Croatia



**Marijana Petir** is a Croatian politician, who, since July 2014 serves as a MEP, representing Croatia for the Croatian Peasant Party. She is a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and the EU-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee (D-MK). She is also a deputy member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), the Delegation for relations with Israel (D-IL) and the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (DMED). Marijana Petir led the anti-nuclear campaign in Croatia, which has prevented the construction of nuclear waste disposal site on Moslavačka Gora and organized a campaign which Croatia declared a country free of genetically modified organisms. In his political and public activity of advocates for the development of villages and family farms, environmental protection and promotion of traditional and general human values.

Website: [www.petir.eu](http://www.petir.eu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Petir.Marijana](https://www.facebook.com/Petir.Marijana)

Twitter: @marijana\_petir

## ❖ John Procter

### Group of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) | Great-Britain



**John Procter** is a British politician and MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber. He replaced Timothy Kirkhope as an MEP in 2016 since he was appointed to the House of Lords. He is a member of the Conservative Party. He is a member of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee (D-ME). He is a substitute of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), the Delegation for relations with Japan (D-JP).

## ❖ Laurent Bourdil

President of ANAMSO and GNIS



**Laurent Bourdil** was born in 1972, in France, and is currently the President of the National Association of Oilseed Seed Multipliers (ANAMSO) and of the Oilseeds Section of the National Interprofessional Seed Group (GNIS) since 2012. Being a farmer in the Lauragais since 2006, he works on the consecrated family farm partially to the durum wheat and sunflower crops, the remaining third being in seed multiplication. He holds a BTS plant technology option agronomy and cropping system from LYCÉE DÉODAT DE SÉVERAC. His professional experience in the seed industry since 1994 has enabled him to acquire skills and conviction.

Website: <http://www.anamso.fr/>

## ❖ Etienne Bruneau

Chairman of the Working Party on Honey of COPA-COGECA



**Etienne Bruneau** is an agricultural Engineer and has a degree in business administration. In 1983 he founded the CARI (Belgian beekeeping centre for research and information). He is also the editor of the journal 'Abeilles & Cie' and the Chairman of the Working Party on Honey of COPA-COGECA. Mr. Etienne Bruneau is the president of the Apimondia Standing Commission on Beekeeping Technology and quality.

Website: <http://www.cari.be/accueil/>

## ❖ François Diaz

Member of OIE



**Dr François Diaz**, a French national, is a Doctor of Pharmacy and also holds a Master's degree in International Law and law of International Organisations. Dr François Diaz currently works as chargé de mission at the Headquarters of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in the Science and New Technologies Department. Amongst others tasks, he is in charge of coordinating the work of the OIE on bee diseases.

## ❖ Gylles Dryancour

Chairman of the Public Policy Group of CEMA



**Gilles Dryancour** is the chairman of the Public Policy Group of CEMA, the European trade association representing the manufacturers of agricultural machinery. Since 2012, he has been working as a director of public affairs for John Deere in Europe, CIS, northern Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Dryancour was the Founding Executive Director of the Cabinet de Conseil en Cooperation Europeenne – 3CE in Bruxelles and Bordeaux. In the early 1990's he was Manager of the European Affairs at Chambre de commerce et d'Industrie de Bordeaux. He did his bachelor's degree at the Lycée du Sacre-Coeur Aix-en-Provence. Furthermore, he obtained a PhD in economics at Universite Paul Cezanne (Aix-Marseille 3). What is more, he worked as a National Expert at the European Commission's DG IX from 1985 to 1989.

Website: <http://www.cema-agri.org/>

LinkedIn: Gylles Dryancour

## ❖ Mihail Dumitru

Deputy Director-General, DG AGRI



**Mihail Dumitru** is the Deputy Director-General responsible for General Aspects of Rural Development and Research, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), European Commission, since 2014. He has relevant experience in Directorate E, Rural Development Programmes I, DG AGRI with specific responsibilities as Coordinator of the training programme for the staff in the rural development directorates, DG AGRI contact point for the Task Force Greece and DG AGRI Green Ambassador for Romania. Mihail Dumitru holds Ph. D - Romanian Academy - National Institute for Economic Research - Bucharest, Romania. Born in Romania in 1964, he is fluent in Romanian, English and French.

## ❖ Frank Filodda

European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors



**Frank Filodda** is the General Manager of Fürsten-Roform, a honey packer in Germany. He is in honey trade since 1991. He is also the President of Honig-Verband e.V. and member of the European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors (FEEDM). Moreover, Frank Filodda has been an expert at the Standing Group Beekeeping/Civil Dialogue Group Beekeeping for around twenty years.



## ❖ Andrea Gavinelli

Head of Unit Official Controls and Eradication of Diseases in Animals, DG Health and Good Safety.



**Andrea Gavinelli** has been a policy official at the European Commission since 1999. He was in charge of the Animal Welfare Unit in the Health and Food Safety Directorate General of the European Commission. The Unit is responsible for the development and the coordination of animal welfare policies in the EU. Since 2001 Andrea has been the European member of the “Working Group on Animal Welfare” of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE-Paris). He is also co-chair of specific working groups on animal welfare established with EU trading partners in the framework of bilateral trade agreements such as: Chile, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand. Additionally, he is a member of the editorial board of the “FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare.” Currently, he is the Head of Unit Official Controls and Eradication of Diseases in Animals at the EU Commission in DG Health and Good Safety.

LinkedIn: Andrea Gavinelli

## ❖ Walter Haefeker

Coordinator of Apimondia



**Walter Haefeker** is a professional beekeeper from Bavaria, south of Munich (Germany). He serves on the board of directors of the German Professional Beekeepers Association since 2004 and as President of the European Professional Beekeeping Association since 2008. In this capacity he has been working on the critical issues facing beekeepers today. Since 2011 he is the coordinator of the World Beekeepers Federation's (Apimondia) Working Group on GMOs and the author of many articles on the relationship of beekeeping and agriculture. In 2014 Mr. Haefeker was awarded the Bavarian State Medal for outstanding services to the environment. Walter Haefeker has also represented the beekeeping sector with presentations and papers at various scientific conferences. His beekeeping operation is certified organic.

Website: <http://www.berufsimker.de>

## ❖ Yvan Hennion

National Federation of Agricultural Holders' Unions (FNSEA)



**Yvan Hennion** is a member of the Commission of Apiculture of the National Federation of Agricultural Holders' Unions (FNSEA). In 1998, he has taken over his in-laws' farm called “L'Abeille du Mont” in the North of France, close to Lille. Before the farm focused its activity on animal farming but they have been replaced by bees.

## ❖ Philippe Lecompte

Professional organic beekeeper, Bees Biodiversity Network



**Philippe Lecompte** is a professional organic beekeeper. He is also the President and the founder of Bees Biodiversity Network, a network that gathers beekeepers, farmers and professional organisations. He is the first one to have launched the first apicultural fallows in the Mountain of Reims started from 1992. By setting up the first floral fallows, he already considered that the improvement of the floral diversity is an essential condition for the resettlement of the bee colonies. Now, he observes a better nutritional balance among his bees and an increase in honey production in his hives.

## ❖ Dr. Bach Kim Nguyen

University of Liège (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech), BeeOdiversity



**Kim Nguyen** has a PhD in agronomy and bio-engineering. His doctoral thesis exclusively focused on studying the causes of mortality rates amongst honeybees. He sits on numerous national and international committees that deal with the bee and pollinator issue (e.g.: FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain), FPS (Federal Public Service), ANSES (French agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety), Bee informed partnership (USA), Coloss – COST Project (International). Dr Bach Kim is an internationally renowned expert on the demise of the bee. He wrote a doctoral thesis exclusively dedicated to this issue.

He decided to set up BeeOdiversity in 2012 together with 3 associates. BeeOdiversity's mission is to develop projects and offer advice on how to boost biodiversity, food diversity and the well-being of everyone by protecting pollinators, via a global, innovative and scientific approach.

Website: <http://www.beeodiversity.com/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BeeOdiversity>

Twitter: @BeeOdiversity

## ❖ Francesco Panella

President of Bee Life



**Francesco Panella** is the president of Bee Life - an NGO working for the research and protection of Bees, thus in aid of the environment. The main activity of Bee Life is the study of the impact on bees of environmental threats such as pesticides or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Bee Life has recently established an international alliance together with more than 45 beekeepers organisations, farmers associations, research institutes, citizen rights and environmental organisations called the "Alliance to Save the Bees and Agriculture". Mr. Panella was also a spokesman for the European Beekeeping Coordination. Since the year 2000, he denounces the biocide caused by systemic insecticides. It proposes the survival of bees as one of the key parameters of the outcome of the objectives of sustainability of the CAP.

Website: [www.bee-life.eu](http://www.bee-life.eu)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BeeLife.eu/>

## ❖ Pekka Pesonen

Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca



**Pekka Pesonen** is Secretary General of COPA-COGECA, an agricultural lobby representing 73 national farm organizations in Europe. He has previously been working as a State Secretary for the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, Mr Pesonen has extensive professional experience in lobbying at EU level on behalf of Finnish farmers, forest owners (MTK and SLC) and agri-forestry cooperatives (Pellervo). In the 1990s, he worked in the sales and marketing department of Valio, a Finnish dairy company. Mr Pesonen has also been a member of several high level advisory groups concerning EU policy preparation.

**COPA** (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations) first started out it had 13 member organisations from the then six Member States. Today COPA is made up of 60 organisations from the countries of the European Union and 36 partner organisations from other European countries such as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. This broad membership allows COPA to represent both the general and specific interests of farmers in the European Union. Since its inception, COPA has been recognised by the Community authorities as the organisation speaking on behalf of the European agricultural sector as a whole.

**COGECA**, now called the “General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives in the European Union”, currently represents the general and specific interests of some 40,000 farmers’ cooperatives employing some 660,000 people and with a global annual turnover in excess of three hundred billion euros throughout the enlarged Europe. Since its creation, COGECA has been recognised by the European Institutions as the main representative body and indeed the spokesman for the entire agricultural and fisheries cooperative sector.

Website: [www.copa-cogeca.be/Menu.aspx](http://www.copa-cogeca.be/Menu.aspx)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Copa-Cogeca-1555712338031047/](https://www.facebook.com/Copa-Cogeca-1555712338031047/)

Twitter: @pekka\_pesonen & @COPACOGECA

## ❖ Simon G. Potts

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



**Simon G. Potts** is Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the University of Reading (UK) since 2011. He is also Director of the Center for Agri-Environmental Research and Deputy Director of the Center for Food Security. Since 2014 he is Co-Chair of UN Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessment of ‘Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production’. Simon G. Potts holds a PhD from St Andrews University. He took part to several research programs in different universities as a Postdoctoral Researcher in 1995 at Suez Canal University in Egypt and from 1995 to 1998 at Haifa University in Israel. In 1998, he became Research Fellow at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Costa Rica before being Research Fellow at St Andrews University from 1998 to 2002. In 2001, he was visiting Research Fellow at Aegean

University in Greece. From 2007 to 2011 he was Principal Research Fellow at the University of Reading (UK) before becoming part of Stapledon Trust Fellowship at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia.

## ❖ Humberto Delgado Rosa

**Director for Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low Carbon Technology, DG Climate Action**



**Humberto Delgado Rosa** is the Director for mainstreaming adaptation and low carbon technology in DG Climate Action, European Commission, since January 2012. He has relevant experience in European and international environmental policy, particularly in climate change issues. He served as Secretary of State for the Environment of Portugal from March 2005 to June 2011. In 2007 he was the EU lead negotiator for the UN Climate Change Conference, during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU Council. Between 1995 and 2002 he was advisor for environmental matters of the Prime Minister of Portugal. H. Delgado Rosa holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology, and was a professor and researcher at the University of Lisbon, with experience in animal biology, biodiversity and life science ethics. Born in Lisbon in 1960, he is the father of two, and he is fluent in English, French and Spanish.

## ❖ Agnes Rortais

**Scientific Officer, EFSA**



**Agnes Rortais** is Scientific officer in European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) since November 2008. She served as postdoctoral fellow in CNRS – Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique between 2002 and 2008 and Teaching Scientist in Université Paris IV – Sorbonne. Agnes Rortais holds a PhD on study of biotic and abiotic factors explaining spatial and temporal distribution of two endemic flightless dung beetles across and ecotone of rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest (Queensland, Australia). She speaks English, French and Italian.

Website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/>

## ❖ Alberto Arroyo Schnell

Senior Biodiversity Policy Advisor or WWF European Office, Brussels



**Alberto Arroyo Schnell** is the Senior Biodiversity Policy Advisor of WWF European Policy Office in Brussels. Alberto Arroyo Schnell is of Spanish nationality. He worked for a regional government in Spain during the implementation of Natura 2000. Ten years ago he joined WWF. He is the WWF Natura 2000 coordinator and is considered as a top Natura 2000 expert. As a Senior Policy Manager, he helps to channel the knowledge and research results of the International Union for Conservation of the Nature's network into the EU Environmental Policy debate. Based in Brussels, he also plays a facilitation role in institutional, civil and socioeconomic stakeholders discussions. In his vision, innovation policy is key to help us solve our societal and environmental challenges.

Website: <http://www.wwf.eu/>

## ❖ Noa Simon

Scientific technical advisor, Bee Life



**Noa Simon** is a scientific technical advisor for the *Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination*. She specializes in Aerobiology, Ecology and Entomology. She has contributed towards the creation of several articles, for example: 'Honeybee Colony Vibrational Measurements to Highlight the Brood Cycle' and 'Conclusions of the Worldwide Integrated Assessment on the risks of neonicotinoids and fipronil to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning'.

Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination, is an association formed by professionals of the beekeeping sector from different countries of the European Union. Its main activity is the study of the impact on bees of environmental threats such as pesticides or genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Website: [www.bee-life.eu](http://www.bee-life.eu)

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## Partners press release



Conclusions de la Bee Week 2017

## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

### Le modèle collaboratif plébiscité pour sortir de la crise apicole européenne

**Les nouvelles formes de coopérations au service des abeilles et de la biodiversité ont été au cœur des débats de la 6<sup>e</sup> Semaine Européenne de l'Abeille et de la Pollinisation. Toutes les parties prenantes ont confirmé leur volonté de s'impliquer davantage dans des programmes coopératifs.**

Apiculteurs, agriculteurs, scientifiques, associations, industriels, acteurs du secteur privé, collectivités, institutions européennes, agences internationales, élus et citoyens se sont retrouvés pour la 6<sup>e</sup> année consécutive lors de la Semaine Européenne de l'Abeille et de la Pollinisation qui vient de se tenir à Bruxelles. Invités d'honneur de cette édition, les apiculteurs de Méditerranée ont pu enrichir les débats à travers leurs expériences et leurs méthodes de travail.

Dans la plupart des pays de l'Union Européenne, le secteur apicole doit faire face à d'importantes difficultés liées à la santé du cheptel apicole, à la formation technique, à l'accompagnement des apiculteurs et à la production de miel et autres produits de la ruche. Depuis 6 ans, les partenaires de la Bee Week ont choisi la voie du dialogue pour avancer. Après avoir réussi à poser un diagnostic et un état des lieux de la filière, de multiples initiatives

multi-acteurs ont été présentées au cours des dernières éditions. Il y a un an, la Semaine Européenne de l'Abeille et de la Pollinisation s'était achevée sur un appel à mettre en place une plate-forme de partage et d'échange de connaissances entre les différentes parties prenantes : apiculteurs, scientifiques, entreprises, ONG et législateurs. L'appel a été entendu par l'EFSA qui au cours de cette Bee Week a pu poser les bases de cette plate-forme. Son implication dans cette voie a été unanimement saluée par les acteurs et les représentants des institutions européennes.

### **Dialogue et bienveillance : les clés du succès**

Les parties prenantes et partenaires de la Bee Week entendent poursuivre dans cette voie en privilégiant le dialogue dans un esprit de bienveillance. Les regards sont d'ores et déjà tournés vers l'édition 2018 de ce rendez-vous devenu un des temps forts de l'année apicole. Cette Semaine Européenne de l'Abeille et de la Pollinisation s'enrichit année après année avec un programme dense : symposium scientifique, forums, tables rondes, conférence de haut niveau et temps de convivialité et d'échanges. Le résultat est là avec de nouveaux projets d'ampleur et des propositions formulées auprès des pouvoirs publics afin d'encourager une filière apicole durable, capable d'assurer la pérennité du précieux service de la pollinisation.

### **Une feuille de route riche pour les années à venir**

Après avoir présenté les nouvelles formes de coopérations (économiques, agronomiques, techniques, scientifiques, géographiques...) le défi à relever impose de faciliter ces modèles collaboratifs. Les participants ont souligné l'importance de renforcer la présence des agriculteurs. Il est essentiel d'accélérer l'identification des besoins des agriculteurs pour arriver à généraliser une agriculture durable et favorable aux pollinisateurs. La cohabitation des abeilles domestiques et des pollinisateurs sauvages est en effet un enjeu majeur. Loin d'opposer les uns et les autres, il faut souligner les opportunités de synergies pour améliorer la qualité de la pollinisation des espèces sauvages comme des cultures agricoles. Il en est de même en ce qui concerne les apports mutuels des différentes formes d'apiculture (urbaine et rurale). L'implication des jeunes est aussi un défi à relever pour donner la parole aux acteurs de demain. Un annuaire des parties prenantes pourrait ainsi voir le jour pour faciliter les échanges au quotidien. Face à un tel programme, seule la mobilisation commune de tous rendra possible des résultats positifs.

### **Michel Dantin, parrain des prochaines éditions**

Créé par Gaston Franco en 2012, la Semaine Européenne de l'Abeille et de la pollinisation est parrainée depuis 2015 par Mariya Gabriel avec le soutien de nombreux députés européens : Michel Dantin , Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Nathalie Griesbeck, Férédique Ries, John Procter. Mariya Gabriel vient d'être nommée Commissaire européen en charge du numérique. Elle continuera néanmoins à s'impliquer dans les politiques publiques européennes en faveur des abeilles et de la biodiversité. Membre de la Commission agriculture au Parlement Européen, Michel Dantin a accepté de reprendre le flambeau en parrainant la Bee Week pour les années à venir.

***Ensemble, faisons une fleur aux abeilles et à la biodiversité !***

### **Contacts presse :**

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