

ANNEX 3

EU POSITION ON THE DRAFT WOAHA TERRESTRIAL MANUAL CHAPTERS PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION IN MAY 2023

The EU thanks WOAHA for having taken into account most of its comments submitted previously and in general supports the adoption of the draft chapters and the glossary of terms for the WOAHA Terrestrial Manual circulated in March 2023 to be proposed for adoption at the 90th WOAHA General Session in May 2023, with one exception.

As regards Chapter 3.2.3. on European foulbrood of honey bees, the EU does not support the addition of the new sentence "*Both disease signs and the presence of M. plutonius are required for diagnosis*" in the first paragraph of the summary (lines 8 and 9). That statement amounts to a case definition, which is out of the scope of the Terrestrial Manual. What's more, that statement is neither in line with the text in Section A of the chapter, nor with the corresponding chapter of the Code. In fact, it seems to contradict the relevant statement in Article 9.3.1. of the Code ("*Subclinical infections are common and require laboratory diagnosis*"). This contradiction would give rise to uncertainty as regards disease notification obligations of WOAHA Members and may result in international trade issues. The EU therefore requests that the new sentence be deleted and the previous sentence ("*Most infected colonies display few visible signs, which themselves often quickly abate spontaneously before the end of each active season*") be reinstated before the chapter is presented for adoption.