



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
Pesticides and biocides

Brussels,
SANTE/E4/ [REDACTED] (2020) 7235667

Dear [REDACTED]

Subject: Your letter of 22 October 2020 on SPG options in the reviewed Bee Guidance Document

Thank you for your above-mentioned letter (registered under our reference ARES(2020)5810477) in which you transmit Copa and Cogeca's comments on the ongoing update of the EFSA Bee Guidance Document and the general support to the approach taken which involves the consideration of new scientific information and progress.

The Commission fully shares your views on the importance of pollinators for farmers. I can assure you that the work conducted by EFSA is fully science and evidence based and EFSA is working very closely with Member States experts and stakeholders during the whole review process. As you are aware, the Commission organised a specific workshop to consult with risk managers and risk assessors from Member States in the context of the ongoing review on 30 of June 2020. The next meeting, originally foreseen for October 2020, has been postponed since EFSA still needs to finalise the relevant background document for the next consultation.

Both EFSA and the Commission are committed to progress as fast as possible. However we also need to ensure that the background information and documents are fit for purpose and give risk managers and risk assessors a clear and consistent information on how to improve the protection of pollinators in practice.

The Commission is confident that taking the time to work together with Member States and stakeholders on the review will lead to a scientific and evidence based Guidance Document that will be widely accepted and can be implemented swiftly.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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