



Phytosanitary Products State of play

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EFSA Bee Guidance document State of play

EFSA published in 2013 the Guidance on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees (*Apis mellifera*, *Bombus* spp. and solitary bees)

- Includes methodology to assess the acute risk for additional exposure routes other than only spray applications
- Includes methods to assess the chronic risk
- Includes methodology to assess the risk for bumble bees and solitary bees

EFSA Bee Guidance document State of play

- *Since its adoption in 2013, the EFSA Bee Guidance Document has been criticised by many Member States at the Standing Committee of Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.*
- *A clear majority of Member States has consistently objected to the endorsement of the parts of the Bee Guidance Document related to chronic toxicity for honey bees and the risk to bumble bees and solitary bees..*

EFSA Bee Guidance document State of play

- *The Commission has therefore proposed to make a step forward by implementing the parts on the Guidance Document where there is an agreement among Member States (such as the methodology for acute risk to honeybees which includes new exposure routes and requirements for field testing).*
- *March 2019: mandate to EFSA to review the Guidance Document with priority (new scientific evidence, involvement of all relevant stakeholders)*

EFSA Bee Guidance document State of play

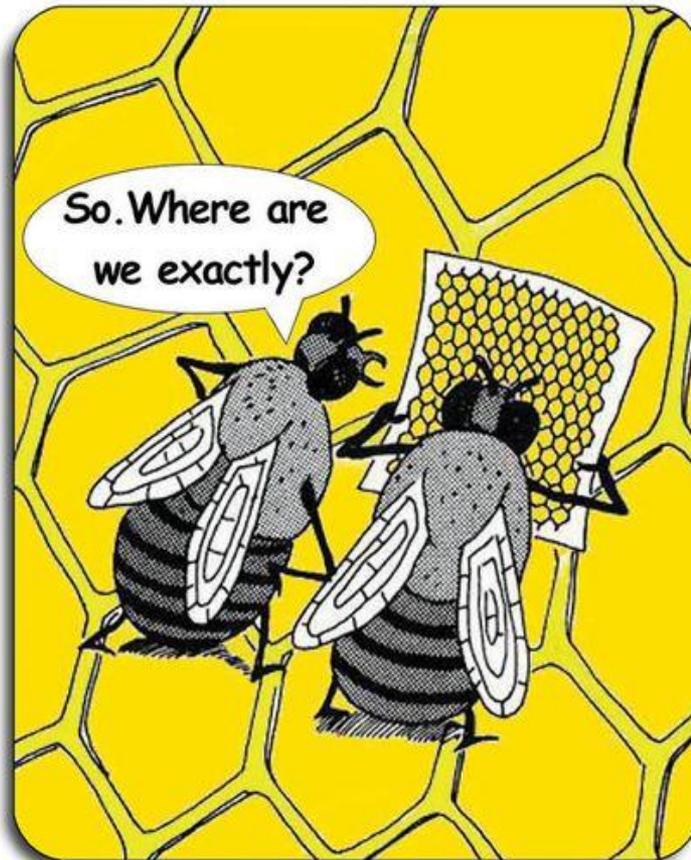
- *First step: proposal to change the uniform principles for acute toxicity to honeybees: voted on 16 July 2019 resulting in a favourable opinion (25 MS representing 71.91 % of the EU population).*
- *On 23 October 2019, objection of the Parliament to the proposal (in favour 533; against 67; abstentions 100) => Commission cannot adopt and consequently no part of the Bee GD can be implemented.*



European
Commission

I regret today's vote re [#BeeGuidance](#) in [@Europarl_EN](#)

. Unfortunately this is not good news for bees. No, we were not lowering the current level of protection. Yes, we did managed, not easily, to get 19 MS approvals. Now the EU's [#bees](#) are back to square one & that's regrettable.



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So. Where are we exactly?

- The review of the Bee Guidance Document by EFSA will continue – target is March 2021.*
- Commission is reflecting on the next steps – it may submit an amended draft measure to the Standing Committee or present a legislative proposal on the basis of the Treaty.*
- Both possible ways of proceeding will require a significant amount of time to be implemented*