



Conclusions: A New Deal for Pollinators

EU POLLINATOR WEEK 2021

Protection, restoration & monitoring

- All pollinators are vital for crop and plant pollination and therefore need adequate protection.
- Pollinators would benefit from protection of natural resources, such as soil and forests, and from policy actions reflecting all identified stressors.
- An ambitious and systematic monitoring of pollinators is necessary to generate critical information for policy makers and stakeholders when they develop, implement and evaluate actions for pollinators. Several *ad hoc* initiatives such as EMBAL, INSIGNIA and SPRING are in place, but they need to be embedded into the legislation to ensure financial and human resources for their implementation in the long term. Continuity and certainty is critical for systematic collection of data and high-quality datasets that will enable an adequate understanding of the problems and how to tackle those.
- There is no monitoring scheme on pollinators in the EU. Scientists made a proposal for an EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme published in 2021 by the JRC. It is critical that the Commission and Member States constructively build on this proposal and agree on a standardised and ambitious framework for monitoring pollinator species in the EU, well supported by financial and human resources.
- Member States should join EU initiatives, such as the SPRING project, in order to ensure standardised EU-wide monitoring of pollinators and biodiversity.
- Restoration and protection of pollinators' habitat will benefit not only wider biodiversity, but also our societies and economies.
- Member States need to improve collection of relevant data (e.g. on agricultural landscape, pesticide use), their reporting and to facilitate their full use by the authorities.

One of the European Green Deal targets is reversing the decline of pollinators. The challenges are significant, and we need to step up our efforts to address the main drivers of the decline [...] The aim would be to reinforce further EU action on pollinators, giving it the force of law. As the motto of the EU Pollinator Week says, our pollinators need a new EU deal. Let's unite our forces to deliver a deal that is comprehensive, robust, and ambitious.

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries



Agriculture and related policies

- Unsustainable practices, such as monocultures, modification of habitat and use of harmful pesticides are one of the main causes of disappearance of pollinators.
- A pollinator-friendly CAP is required: a reduction in synthetic pesticides together with practices encouraging a diversity of melliferous and polliniferous species and landscape features, such as hedges or flower strips, positive incentives and provision of safe alternatives.
- CAP NSPs are the tools to support the needed transition towards pollinator-friendly farming.
- CAP NSPs can be used to support the beekeeping sector, research that supports beekeeping activities and training. Analysis of the bee products can help monitor sustainability of the CAP.

The entire CAP must make an effective and ambitious contribution to overall sustainability, environmental, economical and social. We must increase agroecology and agroforestry and other biodiversity-friendly production systems such as organic farming, precision agriculture, facilitate biological pest control and climate adaptation which will cut down on production costs and be beneficial for pollinators.

- Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture

Pesticides and other chemical products

- Pollinators remain unprotected from impacts of chemicals despite the provisions in EU legislation (e.g. Regulation on PPPs 1107/2009, BPR 528/2012). This gap has to be urgently closed and precautionary principle adhered.
- EFSA has provided key scientific findings and assessments, proposing adequate tools to be used in the authorisation process, such as ApisRAM, which should be incorporated by risk managers and policy makers.
- We are in the process of gathering more data about different stressors to pollinators, incl. PPPs and other synthetic chemicals.
- Transparent decision-making is a cornerstone of EU democratic processes. Citizens should be informed about the positions and decisions taken by their representatives.

Stepping up our action is of paramount importance. We need to reduce the use and impact of pesticides and we need to do more to protect pollinator habitat, especially in agricultural areas but also in urban spaces. By 2030 we want to reverse the decline in pollinators [...] In this generation we have to take responsibility for future generations, for measures which might be painful at first, but which will help us all find a way to live and live comfortably within the boundaries the planet sets us.



- Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Apiculture & consumers

- Climate change seriously impacts the beekeeping sector and production, due to an increasing variation in the availability of food resources (nectar, pollen, etc.) for bees and other insects, reducing the production potential and increasing production costs.
- Lack of transparency in the honey supply chain and imports from beyond the EU, with a lack of sufficient toolkit to detect and control fraud:
 - Common base of reference for honey is missing and needs to be established as well as compulsory rules of traceability.
 - Large number of honey analysis methods exist, but are in need of further research or validation to be used by authorities to fight fraud issues. Harmonised measures are crucial.

It is necessary to take immediate measures, with corresponding economic resources, for supporting beekeeping within the framework of a different and genuinely sustainable CAP that promotes biodiversity. A CAP with stronger intervention capacity in the market, swiftly eliminating any fraud on honey, supporting European commercial honey producers who, in the immediate future, can try to ensure the indispensable pollination while the ecosystem recovers.

- Francesco Panella, President of BeeLife

Research, citizens engagement and awareness raising

- There is a lack of information on wild pollinators and pressures they face, the key prerequisite for effective policy actions.
- We lack bridges among knowledge, research projects and data available to see the bigger picture regarding pollinator populations and the impact of their health stressors. Collaborative initiatives such as the [EU Bee partnership prototype platform](#) for data exchange aim at this objective.
- Some digital IA applications allow citizens to participate in monitoring pollinators, however the observations gathered should be centralised and harmonised.

We have often been left out of important conversations for things that really matter to us. There is a huge reserve of ideas and ways of thinking that remains untapped [...] It's really important to engage youth because a lot of decisions being taken today are something that is going to affect us in the future.

- Venetia Galanaki, Project Lead at Youth and Environment Europe

