



EUROPEAN BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

The European Beekeeping Association (EBA) is a non-governmental and voluntary organisation that unites national beekeeping organisations, beekeeping associations and related entities from any country in geographical Europe that represent beekeepers and work in the interest of bees. Currently, we bring together 44 beekeeping organisations from 28 European countries (listed in Appendix B), representing more than 370.000 beekeepers across Europe. The EBA was established to work in the interest of all European beekeepers, regardless of the number of beehives they have.

One of the main goals of the EBA is combating fraudulent activities related to honey. We advocate for consumer safety and the protection of European beekeepers and their products. Our campaign, “Europeans choose European honey”, aims to raise awareness about the importance of bees, beekeepers, and pollination while highlighting the dangers of uncontrolled honey market. The EBA’s main objectives are to defend the interests of both beekeepers and consumers. Due to increasingly strong unfair competition and the market pressure from adulterated honey flooding Europe, beekeepers are massively losing interest in raising bees. There is no honey without bees, no bees without beekeepers, and without bees, there is no life.

Another of our main goals is to undertake strategies to protect the health and repopulation of bee colonies in Europe. We are convinced that the key is cooperation between beekeepers, farmers, veterinarians and stakeholders, through the exchange of experience and knowledge, mutually learning about spraying periods and other applications of insecticides and pesticides, disease prevention and control, and proper handling of medicines for bees. Additionally, we are advocating for the support for beekeepers in the form of incentives per beehive as compensation for the pollinating role of bees and their role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting food production in Europe. As a third of food production in the world depends on pollinators, the protection of honey bees and other pollinators is truly of crucial importance.

Member organisations of the EBA, along with esteemed professionals and researchers from our Scientific Committee, have a long been advocates for protection of honey bees and pollinators, best beekeeping practices, and the highest quality and safety of honey and other bee products. For example, Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association (SBA), under the presidency of Mr Boštjan Noč, not only initiated the establishment of World Bee Day establishment but was also a leading advocate for more precise labeling of honey origin. In 2020, Slovenia, in



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collaboration with Portugal, presented this proposal at the EU Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, which eventually led to the "Breakfast Directives". Other member organisations and experts from the EBA were also actively involved in the recent amendments to these Directives. SBA President Boštjan Noč, now also the EBA president, was the initiator of the World Bee day suggestion and many other successful projects in beekeeping. Full biography of the president can be found here: <https://www.czs.si/Upload/Bostjan%20Noc-%20BIOGRAPHY.pdf>. The EBA Executive Board consists of four Vice-Presidents. Stefan Spiegl (Germany) is a Vice-president of the German Beekeepers Association and a president of the Bavaria Beekeepers association. Rodoljub Živadinović (Serbia) is an apitherapist and the president of the Serbian Federation of Beekeeping Organisations, a lecturer, author and editor of numerous books on beekeeping and is involved in many international relations. Jorge Spiteri (Malta) is a president of the Malta Beekeepers Association and an active representative in the International Centre for Young Beekeepers. He is a strong advocate for conservation of local honey bees: *Apis mellifera ruttneri*. Tetyana Vasylykivska is the Chairman of the Board of the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Beekeepers and an active member of several international organisations. Other active members of the EBA include a former Member of the European Parliament, Juozas Olekas (Lithuania); President of the International Centre for Young Beekeepers, Jiří Píza (Czech Republic) and many other active beekeepers with wide area of expertise.

We are already offering our expertise to another Expert group of the EC, the Honey Platform group.

We aim to assist in ensuring that beekeepers are a part of the dialog when working on the vision for the future of agriculture and food in Europe. We can significantly contribute with proposals from beekeepers, professionals and scientists who are members of the EBA.

Boštjan Noč, president of the EBA

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