



Brdo pri Lukovici, 31. March 2026

Subject: Urgent Measures Required to Prevent the Introduction of *Tropilaelaps* Mites into the EU

For several years now, the *Tropilaelaps spp.* mite has been spreading westwards across Asia. Due to its enormous reproduction rate, *Tropilaelaps* mite. can cause higher colony losses than the well-known bee parasite *Varroa destructor* (Chantawannakul et al. 2018¹). Infestation with this pest is therefore a notifiable animal disease of categories D and E in accordance with EU Regulation 2018/1882 and the Animal Health Law (EU Regulation 2016/429).

The high infestations with *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* mite have been detected in honey bee colonies in Georgia (Janashia et al. 2024², Uzunov et al. 2026³) and in the Russian regions of Krasnodar and Rostov (Brandorf et al. 2024⁴) on the border with Ukraine. Populations are established there, leading to colony losses in beekeeping.

In addition, there are several unconfirmed reports from Ukraine and Belarus. The European Reference Laboratory for Bee Health (EURL) points to the geopolitical situation in Ukraine, which currently makes it impossible to obtain an overview of the situation there⁵. In addition, due to the lively illegal trade in bees between Georgia and Turkey, the EURL considers the risk of *Tropilaelaps spp.* being introduced into the EU via this route to be "significant".

Scientific studies have shown that *Tropilaelaps* can potentially be introduced via bee transport, including queen shipments, as well as used beekeeping equipment and bee products (Gill et al. 2025⁶). The current import conditions do not provide sufficient control to prevent the introduction of *Tropilaelaps* into the European Union (EU).

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2214574517300810>

² <https://reference-global.com/article/10.2478/jas-2024-0010>

³ <https://academic.oup.com/jee/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jee/toag027/8512193>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1017/S002188392400003X>

⁵ https://sitesv2.anses.fr/en/system/files/Scientific_note_EURL_Geographical_distribution_Tropilaelaps_march_2025.pdf

⁶ <https://ojs.mtak.hu/index.php/Apis/article/view/21253>



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) decided in 2024 that no more package bees and queens may be imported from Ukraine⁷. Previously, in January 2024, the CFIA had sent a questionnaire to the competent Ukrainian authority to gather up-to-date information on beekeeping there and the status of *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations. This process followed the recommendation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) manual on import risk analysis for animals and animal products. Based on the information received, the CFIA concluded that Ukraine is not guaranteed to be free of *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations.

Last year, the United Kingdom also concluded that monitoring of *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations in Ukraine are currently very limited, and the introduction of these mites cannot be ruled out. The United Kingdom has therefore temporarily banned the import of honeybees⁸, unprocessed apiculture by-products, used apiculture equipment and apiculture products in combs.

Our request to you:

EBA requests clarification on the status of Ukraine and Turkey. Pending confirmation of their disease-free status, temporary restrictions should be put in place according to Article 261 of (EU) 2016/429, by removing Ukraine and Turkey from the list of countries, from which bees may be imported into the EU (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, Annex VII). The import of unprocessed apiculture products and used apiculture equipment must also be prohibited. Russia should also be removed from Annex VII due to the detection of *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations in several regions.

We would also like to kindly ask you to advocate for increased health checks in all Member States bordering Ukraine and Turkey in order to detect the possible presence of *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations. All Member States should be asked to check their control plans with regard to *Tropilaelaps* spp. infestations and to brief the competent authorities on the existing risk.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that there are currently no authorised veterinary products in the EU to specifically combat *Tropilaelaps*. Some products used against *Varroa* may also be effective, but an increased use of synthetic products in particular carries the risk of higher levels of residues in bee products and the development of resistance in both *Tropilaelaps* and *Varroa*.

For this reason, promoting on-field studies to focus low environmental products to register in EU against *Tropilaelaps* should be recommended.

⁷ https://honeycouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/CFIA_ACIA-21275496-v2-Response_Letter_Bee_Imports_from_Ukraine_2024-_Stakeholders-PDF-Original-21256061.pdf

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/official-veterinary-surgeon-ovs-notes/6-october-2025-tropilaelaps-mite-restrictions-ukraine>



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The EBA and its Scientific Committee on Bee Health remain at your disposal for any further information or technical discussions required to safeguard the health of European honeybees.

Respectfully,

President Boštjan Noc – President of European Beekeeping Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noc Boštjan'.

Dr. Nik Lupše –Head of EBA Scientific Committees,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lupše'.

Prof. Dr. Aslı Özkırım – President of EBA Bee Health Scientific Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Asli Ozkirim'.

Dr. Giovanni Formato – Vice-President of EBA Bee Health Scientific Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giovanni Formato'.

Sent for information to:

- Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)
- Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety (DG SANTE)



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