Apimondia Federation

Press release

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The EU admits it cannot provide any guarantees on maintaining the level of health and environmental protection

The world beekeeping body warns that the European Commission's proposed pesticide Omnibus reform may silently weaken health and environmental safeguards — without evidence, and without an impact assessment.

Brussels / Rome — Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, is calling on EU institutions to halt progress on the Commission's Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus package until a rigorous, independent impact assessment has been completed and made public. The organisation warns that the proposal, presented in December 2025, risks rolling back decades of hard-won protections for human health, pollinators, and biodiversity.

The alarm was sounded publicly following a Dutch parliamentary hearing on 26 March 2026, at which Klaus Berend, Director for Food Safety at the Commission's DG SANTE, was asked by MP Inès Kostić what evidence existed to demonstrate that the reform would not reduce the current level of protection for citizens and nature. According to a report by Générations Futures on March 19th no such evidence was provided. The Commission cannot presently show that its own proposal preserves existing safeguards.

"Pesticide regulation must be precautionary, transparent and grounded in science. Any legislative change that reduces scrutiny of pesticide risks, delays action on harmful substances or weakens environmental protections must be assessed openly and rigorously before it moves one step further."— Fani Hatjina, Chair, Apimondia Bee Health Scientific Commission

PAN Europe has further raised concerns that the Omnibus package could undermine the regular reassessment of approved active substances — a cornerstone mechanism that allows regulators to act when new scientific evidence emerges. The proposal was introduced without an impact assessment, and a legal opinion cited by PAN Europe alleges it is

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About Apimondia: Apimondia Federation is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. Our goal is to facilitate knowledge exchange among scientists, beekeepers, and other stakeholders for effective collaboration and coordinated actions to address practical issues and support sustainable practices globally. We are the largest organisation to beekeeping stakeholders with 80+ member organisations across 120+ countries.

inconsistent with the Commission's own Better Regulation Guidelines and with Treaty principles.

For Apimondia, these are not procedural technicalities. Bees and other pollinators are directly exposed to the pesticide substances regulated under EU law. Weakening the frequency or trigger conditions for safety reviews, or extending approval periods without commensurate scrutiny, translates directly into heightened risk for pollinator populations

APIMONDIA'S CALLS TO ACTION

- The European Parliament, the Council, and Member States **must require a full, published impact assessment** before the Omnibus package advances.
- No legislative change may reduce the level of protection established under existing EU pesticide law.
- The precautionary principle must be applied wherever scientific uncertainties remain.
- **Priorit**y must be given to effective, fully resourced implementation of the current regulatory framework.
- **Citizens** are urged to sign the European petition on pesticide regulation made available by PAN Europe.

that underpin European food production and ecosystem health. Any reform that changes how long approvals remain in force or how reassessments are initiated must be subject to the highest level of evidential and legal scrutiny.

“Apimondia supports regulatory systems that are scientifically robust, transparent, and precautionary. At a time of accelerating biodiversity loss and growing concern over environmental contaminants, Europe must ensure that any legislative reform strengthens confidence in public protections rather than weakens them.”— Peter Kozmus, Acting President of Apimondia

Apimondia represents beekeeping organisations from more than 100 countries and speaks on behalf of over 80 member organisations that collectively manage millions of honey bee hives worldwide. The organisation considers strong EU pesticide regulation a matter of global importance, and will continue to engage EU institutions, member governments, and civil society to ensure that reform serves people, pollinators, and the planet — not regulatory convenience.

Further notes: PAN Europe’s reaction | Pesticide Action Network raises alarm over 49 pesticides facing unlimited approval in EU ‘omnibus’ proposal | Evaluation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on the placing of plant protection products

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