EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Deputy Director-General for the Food Chain

Brussels,
SANCO/E3/MP/sf

Subject: Mandate for scientific and technical assistance (EFSA Conclusions) in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 to perform an evaluation of neonicotinoids as regards the risk to bees.

Dear 5.1.2.e

The Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market foresees in Article 21 the possibility to review the approval of active substances in light of new scientific and technical knowledge and monitoring data.

As you are aware, neonicotinoids have recently been under scrutiny for their alleged role in bee decline. On this matter, I appreciate the important work already undertaken by EFSA.

Due to the high controversy over the risk of neonicotinoids for bees and given the numerous studies and research activities carried out in the last years, I would like EFSA to perform a thorough risk assessment of neonicotinoids to bees, namely thiametoxam, clothianidin, acetamiprid, thiacloprid and imidacloprid.

In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, the Commission therefore asks EFSA to provide, **by 31 December 2012 at the latest**, EFSA conclusions concerning an updated risk assessment of the above mentioned active substances for bees, in particular as regards:

(1) the acute and chronic effects of colony survival and development, taking into account effects on bee larvae and bee behaviour;

(2) the effects of sub-lethal doses on bee survival and behaviour.

EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY
5.1.2.e
Via 5.1.2.e 1A

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In performing this task, EFSA should organise a peer review and take into account in particular:

- the existing data submitted at EU level and at Member State level for the approval and the authorisations;
- the forthcoming EFSA opinion on the science behind the risk assessment scheme for bees;
- the recent EFSA conclusions on thiametoxam;
- any other data from studies, research and monitoring activities that are relevant to the uses under considerations.

My services remain at your disposal for further information. On this matter, you can contact 5.1.2.e who is responsible for this dossier with regard to legislation and 5.1.2.e who is the relevant contact point in the unit in charge of relations with EFSA. Their respective phone and e-mail addresses are indicated below.

Yours sincerely,

5.1.2.e

Contact persons:

5.1.2.e (+ 5.1.2.e) 5.1.2.e @ec.europa.eu

5.1.2.e (+ 5.1.2.e), 5.1.2.e @ec.europa.eu