EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Deputy Director-General for the Food Chain

Brussels,
SANCO/E3/MP/

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.

Ref.: your letter of 9 June 2012 (CGL/DA/mca (2012): **out-6581827**)

Dear 5.1.2.e

On 25 April 2012, the Commission sent a mandate asking EFSA to perform a thorough risk assessment of neonicotinoids (namely thiametoxam, clothianidin, acetamiprid, thiachloprid and imidacloprid) as regards the risk to bees (Ref Ares(2012)511037).

In view of the recent discussions held with Member States experts during the Standing Committee of Food Chain and Animal Health on 7 June 2012 and on 13 July 2012 and taking into account the EFSA statement on the findings in recent studies investigating sub-lethal effects in bees of some neonicotinoids in consideration of the uses currently authorised in Europe ("EFSA statement") as well as your letter of 9 June 2012, we would like to modify our mandate, while keeping the **original deadline of 31 December 2012**.

The EFSA statement clearly indicates that the active substances acetamiprid and thiacloprid, cyano-substituted neonicotinoids, are characterized by a lower acute toxicity profiles for bees compared to thiametoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid, nitroguanidine-substituted neonicotinoids. The EFSA statement suggests that considering the toxicity of these substances, the sub-lethal effects observed on honeybees and bumblebees are not likely to occur for thiacloprid and acetamiprid at similar levels of exposure.

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

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The Commission therefore asks EFSA to prioritise the review of **thiametoxam, clothianidin** and **imidacloprid**.

In addition, due to concerns raised both by EFSA and by Rapporteur Member States about the deadlines set, especially in view of the extent of the data and information to be evaluated, the Commission asks EFSA to perform the evaluation focusing on critical issues identified until now by several parties and related to the **authorised uses of these substances for seed treatment and granules**, in particular as regards:

- Dusts from seeds and granules;
- Residues in nectar and pollen and sub-lethal effects on bees and bee colonies survival;
- Guttation.

I would like to inform you that in a second step, the Commission will ask EFSA to perform the remaining tasks of our mandate of 25 April 2012.

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:

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