

**Question for written answer E-007240/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina nigritorax*) and the future of European bee-keeping

The yellow-legged hornet, which arrived in France in 2004, is colonising the entire country and devastating apiaries. Other countries - Belgium and Spain, for example - have also been invaded.

The hornet's presence is a threat both to bee-keeping and to ecosystem balance.

The survival of foraging bees, which are a food source for the yellow-legged hornet, is at risk. Bees have still not found a way of combating this predator, and hives are gradually disappearing.

In Europe, more than 4 000 crop plants depend on pollination, which is needed for nearly 90% of wild plants and one third of the crops we eat.

A number of local initiatives have been put in hand to combat the yellow-legged hornet and help bee-keepers affected by the fall in honey production.

1. Can the Commission provide precise figures as to the impact of, and losses caused by, the yellow-legged hornet within European bee-keeping, in particular in small apiaries?
2. Has the Commission produced an impact assessment concerning this new predator within European bee-keeping, in particular in small and medium-sized apiaries?
3. What EU-level action is the Commission going to take to curb this predator without, however, harming other species or the ecosystem?