

**Question for written answer E-005969/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Glenis Willmott (S&D)

Subject: Imported commercially produced bumblebee hives

More than four out of five plant species in Europe are believed to depend on pollination by bees – including over three quarters of our food production. The EU has set an example by temporarily banning the use of neonicotinoids, as evidence indicates they are harmful to bee populations. However, several studies have now found that imported bumblebee hives are also a danger to bee populations, as they can carry disease and parasites that can spread across bee populations. There appear to be no EU-wide controls on imported hives.

1. Is the Commission aware of this threat to Europe's bees?
2. Will the Commission consider EU-wide controls or facilitate cooperation between Member States to prevent trade in diseased or parasite-infested bumblebee hives?