

**Question for written answer E-012464/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Impact of neonicotinoids on bees

Bees play a very important role in plant pollination. They ensure the reproduction and hybridisation of numerous wild and cultivated plants. However, bee populations have been declining across large areas of the planet, not least in various EU Member States. The most significant of the different possible causes of this worrying phenomenon are the emergence of pests, the use of pesticides and, naturally, the loss of biodiversity from the reduction in available nectar.

Can the Commission please state what it has been doing to counteract this decline in bee populations, specifically in terms of supporting research into the impact of pesticide use, with particular focus on neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides? Can it also state what it has been doing to support research into genetic selection aimed at enhancing resistance to the *Varroa* mite?