

**Question for written answer E-006192/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Reconciling Neonicotinoid ban and EPILOBEE result

In 2013, the suspension of certain uses of selected neonicotinoid pesticides was put in place in response to strong bee losses suffered by EU beekeepers, without a demonstrated causal link between those substances and the high mortality levels.

The Commission's own Pan-European Epidemiological Study on Honey Bee Colony Losses (EPILOBEE) and its statistical analysis from the European Food Safety Authority now identify the main variables having an effect on honeybee colony mortality: varroosis, absence of beekeeping training and non-participation in cooperative veterinary treatment.

What does the Commission intend to do to address these key factors and protect EU beekeepers against excessive losses?