



9.5.2011

0020/2011

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the welfare of Europe's bees

Peter Skinner

Lapse date: 15.9.2011

0020/2011

Written declaration on the welfare of Europe's bees

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH),
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas insect pollination has an estimated value of EUR 53 billion per year, representing 9.5% of the value of total world agricultural food production, and that 84% of crop species grown in Europe rely on insect pollination alone,
- B. whereas current limits on neonicotinoid pesticides are based on short-term studies and new research suggests that longer-term studies may mean far lower permissible concentrations,
- C. whereas Dr Simon Potts from the University of Reading, together with the UN Environment Programme, reports that a 10% loss in bees is not an unrealistic future prospect for Europe,
- D. whereas a 10% loss of insect pollination could have huge economic consequences,
1. Calls for further research into the long-term effects of the use of neonicotinoid pesticides;
 2. Calls for a ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides until further long-term studies have been completed;
 3. Calls for greater awareness of the role of bees in European biodiversity;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the parliaments of the Member States.