

**DRAFT PROGRAMME  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**European Citizens' Initiative**

**Save bees and farmers! Towards a bee-friendly agriculture for a  
healthy environment**

Organised by  
the **Committee Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)** and  
the **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)**

Associated committee:  
**Committee on Petitions (PETI)**

24 January 2023, 14:30 - 18:30  
European Parliament, Brussels

**Room: ANTALL (2Q2)**

**Webstreaming link:**

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/meetings/webstreaming>

*Welcome and opening remarks by the European Commission Vice President and European  
Parliament Committees Chairs*

**Pascal CANFIN**, Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**Benoît BITEAU**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

**Ana MIRANDA**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petitions

**Věra JOUROVÁ**, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Values  
and Transparency - Opening statement

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*Presentations of the ECI organisers*

**Dr. Helmut BURTSCHER-SCHADEN** (Global 2000, AT)

**Dr. Jeroen CANDEL** (associate professor, Wageningen University, NL)

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**PANEL I: Phasing-out synthetic pesticides**

*ECI objective: “Gradually phase out synthetic pesticides in EU agriculture by 80% by 2030, starting with the most hazardous, to become 100% pesticide-free by 2035”*

Presentation of ECI objectives by **Madeleine COSTE** (Food Policy Officer, Slow Food EU) and **Jean-Bertrand LOZIER** (conventional farmer, FR)

Q&A by Members:

- ENVI Members
- AGRI Members
- PETI Members
- *Catch the eye*

Reaction by ECI organisers

Statement by **Claire BURY**, Deputy Director General for food sustainability (DG SANTE) addressing the European Citizens’ Initiative

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**PANEL II: Biodiversity restoration**

*ECI objective: “Restore natural ecosystems in agricultural areas and transform means of production in such a way that agriculture again contributes to the promotion of biodiversity”*

Presentation of ECI objectives by **Prof Dr Violette GEISSEN** (Wageningen University, NL) and **Dr Noa SIMÓN DELSO** (scientific director, Bee Life European Beekeeping Coordination)

Q&A by Members:

- ENVI Members
- AGRI Members
- PETI Members
- *Catch the eye*

Reaction by ECI organisers

Statement by **Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS**, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries addressing the European Citizens Initiative

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### **PANEL III: Support for farmers**

*ECI objective: “Reform agriculture by prioritising small scale, diverse and sustainable farming, supporting a rapid increase in agro-ecological and organic practices, and enabling independent farmer-based training and research into pesticide- and GMO-free farming”*

Presentation of ECI objectives by **Andre PRESCHER-SPIRIDON** (BUND, DE) and **Dr Alain PEETERS** (Agroecology Europe)

Q&A by Members:

- ENVI Members
- AGRI Members
- PETI Members
- *Catch the eye*

Reaction by ECI organisers

Statement by **Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI**, Commissioner for agriculture addressing the European Citizens Initiative

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Statement by **Maria NIKOLOPOULOU**, representative of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Statement by **Frida NILSSON**, representative of the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

Reaction by **Dr Martin DERMINE** (PAN Europe, Pesticide Action Network), ECI organiser

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*Closing remarks by Chairs*

**Ana MIRANDA**, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petitions

**Pascal CANFIN**, Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**Benoît BITEAU**, Vice - Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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