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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on pollinators, honey bee health and the beekeeping sector

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Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on pollinators, honey bee health and the beekeeping sector¹

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that 71 of the 100 crop species that provide 90 % of food worldwide are pollinated by bees, and has also noted, as recalled by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), that no single cause of declining bee numbers has been identified as yet. There is a need to raise awareness of the importance of bees in our society and to follow up the EU's overall Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013. Prevention is better than cure.
2. The Council stressed in its conclusions on the Commission communication on honey bee health that, given the different surveillance systems and the lack of representative and comparable data, it is difficult to obtain appropriate scientific knowledge about bee health.
3. The Council and the Commission are called upon to promote further study, convening a group of experts to assess available evidence on pollinator declines and to determine the extent and the possible causes of colony losses in order to plan future EU action on a solid and objective scientific basis.
4. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.