

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0309/03  
by Markus Ferber (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: National and Community rules and their consequences for beekeepers

1. The rules governing the use of lactic acid in beekeeping are applied differently in the individual EU Member States. How does the Commission view the various economic and environmental consequences of this state of affairs for beekeeping?
2. Why has the Commission seized the initiative over the obligation of professional associations, although this matter falls within the remit of the Member States?
3. To what extent can the rules on the authorisation of lactic and formic acid and the obligation to sell them only in pharmacies vary in the individual Member States without creating any distortions of competition under EU legislation?
4. How does the Commission intend to react, as regards the authorisation of sprays, to changed methods of cultivation in modern agriculture in which the cultivation of genetically modified plants is steadily increasing?
5. Is the provision of sugar for winter feeding covered by European legislation? Which treaties and agreements are affected by these rules? To what extent does the Commission see the need to act at European level to redress price trends and thus distortions of competition?