

**Question for written answer E-004660/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)

Subject: Protection of bumblebees

The issue of the survival of bees has already been touched on in the past by the European Parliament, but, in actual fact, bumblebees are at risk of extinction in Europe, too. According to a recent study, 24% of bumblebee species in Europe are in danger and the study shows disturbing rates of reduction of the population of 68 species native to Europe. According to the study, the main risk factors for 46% of bumblebees in Europe today are urban development and changes to farmland. Since bumblebees pollinate vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers, as well as numerous plants and flowers, their economic value, too, is substantial, at around EUR 22 billion per year.

With regard to the protection of bumblebees, can the Commission clarify whether the EU has already taken any action in this field, or whether it intends to do so in the future?