

**Question for written answer E-005326/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Carlo Fidanza (PPE)

Subject: Prospective funding for apiculture

Apiculture and apiculturists are fundamental for the maintenance of the ecosystem. Unfortunately we have for some years been experiencing the CCD (Colony Collapse Disorder) syndrome, a phenomenon whose cause is still largely unknown, which has caused the sudden death of bee colonies (*apis mellifera*). CCD was first discovered in bee populations in North America in late 2006.

European beekeepers have also recorded the syndrome in Belgium, France, Holland, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Switzerland and Germany have recorded cases on a smaller scale.

In the light of the above and the importance of apiculture in preservation of the biological and environmental equilibrium, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of this situation and what measures does it intend to take to combat the CCD syndrome?
2. Does the Community have programmes or funding for the construction of new apiaries to assist in repopulation?