

**Question for written answer E-003425/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Andrey Slabakov (ECR), Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)**

**Subject:** Support for beekeepers under the 'Farm to Fork' strategy, given their importance for biodiversity and agriculture

The Commission has placed farming practices at the heart of its new proposals on a biodiversity strategy and the 'Farm to Fork' strategy, with a view to these helping to achieve the EU's 2030 and 2050 targets on biodiversity and climate. One of the targets is the maintenance and renewal of Europe's forests.

Among the proposed measures is the introduction of eco-schemes to support farmers who follow practices particularly favourable to biodiversity. The Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, explained to the ENVI Committee on 4 June 2020 that the schemes will provide funding above and beyond that available through the common agricultural policy.

Bearing in mind that, according to Commission data, four out of every five plants need pollination and that the value of pollinators – primarily bees – to agriculture in Europe is EUR 15 billion, and since the mutual benefits of beekeeping and forestry are widely acknowledged:

1. Does the Commission intend to qualify beekeeping as an agricultural activity with particular social and economic benefits and to open up possibilities to increase subsidies for beekeeping?
2. Will it introduce, as a facet of the new strategies, eco-schemes for the pollination of wild natural areas and agricultural zones? Does it plan to make the pollination of forests a special heading under those eco-schemes?