

**Question for written answer E-005734/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Protecting local honeybees

In March 2018 Parliament adopted a resolution on prospects and challenges for the EU apiculture sector (2017/2115(INI)). It emphasised, in paragraphs 20 and 23, the importance of preserving the genetic heritage and diversity of the honeybee subspecies native to Europe and their local ecotypes, which are better suited to their environment and better able to deal with the environmental and health challenges they face.

These local subspecies, endemic to different areas in Europe, are endangered in every European country.

The resolution called on the Commission to take action to protect conservation areas for local honeybees. Large-scale imports of foreign honeybees into these areas are contributing to the genetic hybridisation of these subspecies and causing diseases to spread.

1. Is the Commission going to take the steps that Parliament called and voted for with the support of nearly 300 000 people and the #SaveLocalBees coalition of European researchers and associations?
2. What steps will the Commission take to ensure the survival of honeybee subspecies endemic to various areas in the EU?
3. What does the Commission intend to do to protect existing EU honeybee conservation areas?