

Question for written answer E-003184/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Need to determine whether pure organic acids can be used to combat *Varroa destructor*

Beekeepers use pure organic acids (lactic, oxalic or formic acids) to protect honey bees from *Varroa destructor*, a parasitic mite. These acids, used in organic farming, are naturally present in honey. They slow down the spread of the Varroa mite and pose no danger to the environment or to consumer health if applied correctly.

However, these acids are banned in France, where beekeepers may use only veterinary medicinal products for which marketing authorisation has been obtained. Some of these medicinal products are themselves derived from organic acids, to which adjuvants are added.

French beekeepers have criticised the methods for applying these medicines, which are unsuitable and can be harmful to bees, particularly queen bees¹.

The French Ministry of Agriculture still refuses to authorise the use of pure organic acids, effectively making itself complicit in the destruction of beehives and their products.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Does it have any information on the use of pure organic acids in beekeeping?
2. Does it know whether these acids are used in other Member States?
3. Would it be willing to ask the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for an opinion on the use of pure organic acids?

¹ <https://reporterre.net/On-autorise-les-neonicotinoides-mais-on-interdit-un-traitement-bio-pour-les-abeilles>