

**Question for written answer E-003372/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Drought: beekeepers have lost half their yields on average

The nectar from flowers enables bees to produce honey, some of which is harvested by beekeepers. However, this honey is also consumed by the bees, particularly during the winter, to produce heat. They need a lot of energy during this period. If the harvest at the end of the summer and in the autumn is insufficient, the bee colony will not be able to survive. This is why beekeepers are forced to feed their bees themselves with honey or sugar.

Although beekeepers are used to dealing with climatic events, these have been more numerous and more severe this year. After the frosts in April, conditions continued to deteriorate with abnormally hot temperatures from May onwards, which had repercussions for all flowering plants.

These climatic events have led to a fourfold reduction in honey yields in France compared to 2021.

1. Has the Commission made provision for aid for the European beekeeping sector, which is suffering from both inflation and increased costs?
2. What action plan does the Commission intend to implement for the comprehensive protection of bees?