



BEYOND PESTICIDES

701 E Street, SE ■ Washington DC 20003
202-543-5450 phone ■ 202-543-4791 fax
info@beyondpesticides.org ■ www.beyondpesticides.org

Beyond Pesticides Applauds EU for Protecting Bees, Asks EPA to Take Urgent Action

(Beyond Pesticides, April 29, 2013) After months of debate, the European Union (EU) voted today to take the precautionary approach and restrict the pesticides associated with bee decline, despite a split among EU states. The neonicotinoid insecticides: clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid, will be banned for 2 years in Europe. This new measure must prompt the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take similar action.

The decision comes after the report by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) which concluded that the neonicotinoid pesticides posed a “high acute risk” to pollinators, including honey bees. The insecticides would now be restricted from use on crops which attractive to bees and on certain cereal grains. The moratorium will begin no later than 1 December this year.

“We’re happy to see the EU take a leadership role to remove from the market these chemicals associated with colony collapse disorder and hazards to bee health. We’ll continue to push EPA through legal and advocacy means to follow-up with urgent actions needed to protect bees,” says Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides.

The vote represents a major setback to industry giants Syngenta and Bayer, who spent millions of dollars lobbying European states to not support a ban on their products, and casted calls for a ban on the unfounded accusations of “bee-hobbyists.” According to the Guardian UK, “One Syngenta executive, mentioning in passing his recent lunch with Barack Obama, claimed that ‘a small group of activists and hobby bee-keepers’ were behind that campaign for a ban.” Industry continues to argue that a ban would be catastrophic to agriculture, but similar bans in Italy, Slovenia and Germany enacted a couple years ago did not hinder the agricultural community.

In light of these new restrictions across Europe, EPA must also move to restrict these chemicals in the U.S. to protect bee and other pollinator health. In March 2013, Beyond Pesticides, the Center for Food Safety, Pesticide Action Network North America filed a lawsuit with EPA asking the agency to suspend the uses of clothianidin and thiamethoxam, both shown to have unreasonable impact on bee health.

For more information, see Beyond Pesticides’ BEE Protective webpage:

www.beyondpesticides.org/pollinators.

###

