

Thursday 22 April 2004

TEXTS ADOPTED

P5_TA(2004)0351

Beekeeping ***European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation on actions in the field of beekeeping (COM(2004) 30 – C5-0052/2004 – 2004/0003(CNS))**

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2004) 30) ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to Articles 36 and 37 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C5-0052/2004),
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A5-0232/2004),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Calls for initiation of the conciliation procedure under the Joint Declaration of 4 March 1975 if the Council intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 5. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
 6. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENTAmendment 1
Recital 5a (new)

(5a) In implementing Article 26a of Directive 2001/18/EC ⁽¹⁾, Member States should take legislative measures on the coexistence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops that also allow beekeepers to manufacture honey with a pollution level below the threshold value of 0,9%.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC (OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1, last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 24)).

⁽¹⁾ Not yet published in the OJ.

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TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

Amendment 2

Recital 5b (new)

(5b) There continues to be an imbalance between supply and demand in the market in honey within the Community and the level of self-sufficiency has fallen still further in the last three years, as a result of which the price of honey in the European Union depends directly on the world price, which is itself very unstable.

Amendment 3

Recital 5c (new)

(5c) Honey is a high-quality agricultural product and remains one of the few products listed in Annex I to the Treaty establishing the European Community neither to benefit from a comprehensive regulatory and direct support framework under the CAP nor to enjoy sufficient differentiation in respect of imported honeys.

Amendment 4

Recital 5d (new)

(5d) The Member States of the European Union have a substantial beekeeping tradition and some are large producers of honey, which should be taken into account in the implementation of this Regulation, not least in terms of the budget allocated thereto.

Amendment 5

Recital 6

(6) In view of the spread of varroasis in several Member States in recent years and the **problems which** this disease **causes for** honey production, action by the Community is necessary as varroasis cannot be completely eradicated and treatment with approved products is recommended.

(6) In view of the spread of varroasis in several Member States in recent years and the **effects of** this disease **on** honey production, action by the Community is necessary as varroasis cannot be completely eradicated and treatment with approved products is recommended.

Amendment 6

Recital 6a (new)

(6a) Bearing in mind on the one hand the European Parliament's resolution of 9 October 2003 on the difficulties faced by the European beekeeping sector ⁽¹⁾, which officially recognises the exceptional decline in the bee population in recent years, and on the other hand Regulation (EC) 1398/2003 ⁽²⁾, which prohibits the import of packets of bees, and the current shortage of biological material production units, measures need to be introduced in support of the restoration and development of the Community's bee population.

⁽¹⁾ P5_TA(2003)0430.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 198, 6.8.2003, p. 3.

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TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

Amendment 7

Recital 6b (new)

(6b) Quality control checks on honey play a major part in enabling, on the one hand, improvement of the production and marketing of honey and, on the other, prevention of the marketing of honey that fails to meet the European quality criteria principally laid down in Council Directive 2001/110/EC of 20 December 2001 relating to honey⁽¹⁾. These checks make for stabilisation of the market and of prices.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 10, 12.1.2002, p. 47.

Amendment 8

Recital 7

(7) Given these circumstances and in order to improve the production and marketing of apiculture products in the Community, national programmes should be drawn up every three years **comprising technical assistance, control of varroasis, rationalisation of transhumance, management of the restocking of hives in the Community, and cooperation on research programmes on beekeeping and apiculture products.**

(7) Given these circumstances and in order to improve the production and marketing of apiculture products in the Community, national programmes should be drawn up every three years **and reviewable annually, and should comprise:**

- (a) technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers;**
- (b) control of varroasis and its corollaries;**
- (c) rationalisation of transhumance;**
- (d) measures to support the restoration and development of the Community's bee population;**
- (e) cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of improving the bee population and the quality of honey and apiculture products;**
- (f) measures in support of honey analysis laboratories;**
- (g) any other measure apt to improve the production and marketing of honey and apiculture products.**

Amendment 9

Recital 8

(8) In order to supplement the statistical data on beekeeping, Member States should carry out studies on the structure of the sector, covering production, marketing and price formation.

(8) In order to supplement the statistical data on beekeeping, Member States should carry out **detailed** studies on the structure of the sector, covering production, marketing and price formation.

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TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

Amendment 10

Article 1, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2

To this end, each Member State **may** draw up a national programme for a period of three years, hereinafter referred to as the 'apiculture programme'.

To this end, each Member State **must** draw up a national programme for a period of three years, **reviewable annually**, hereinafter referred to as the 'apiculture programme'.

Amendment 11

Article 2, paragraph 1

The measures which may be included in the apiculture programme shall be the following:

- (a) technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers,
- (b) control of varroasis,
- (c) rationalisation of transhumance,
- (d) measures to support the **restocking of hives in the Community**,
- (e) cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of **beekeeping and apiculture products**.

The measures which may be included in the apiculture programme shall be the following:

- (a) technical assistance to beekeepers and groupings of beekeepers,
- (b) control of varroasis **and its corollaries**,
- (c) rationalisation of transhumance,
- (d) measures to support the **restoration and development of the Community's bee population**,
- (e) cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes in the field of **improving the bee population and the quality of honey and apiculture products**,
- (ea) **measures in support of honey analysis laboratories**,
- (eb) **any other measure apt to improve the production and marketing of honey and apiculture products**.

Amendment 12

Article 3

To be eligible for the part-financing provided for in Article 4(2), Member States **shall carry out** a study of the production and marketing structure in the beekeeping sector in their territory. This study shall be communicated with the apiculture programme.

To be eligible for the part-financing provided for in Article 4(2), Member States **must carry out a detailed** study of the production and marketing structure in the beekeeping sector in their territory. This study shall be communicated with the apiculture programme.

Amendment 13

Article 4, paragraph 2

2. The Community shall provide part-financing for the apiculture programmes equivalent to **50 %** of the expenditure borne by Member States.

2. The Community shall provide part-financing for the apiculture programmes equivalent to **75 %** of the expenditure borne by Member States.