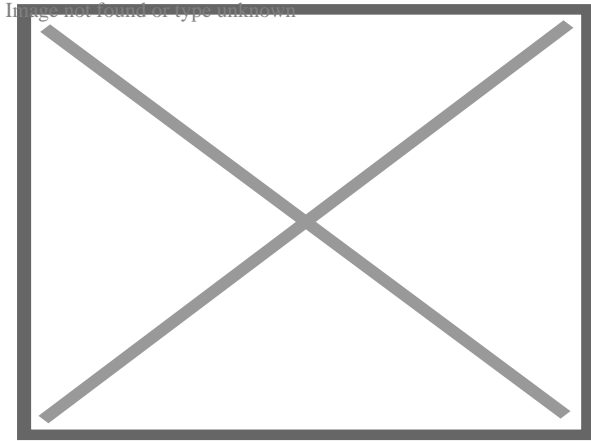


## To help bees and farmers, EU should roll back 'fear-based' ban on neonicotinoid pesticides

*[Editor's note: The following is a letter by David Zaruk, Belgian-based environmental-health journalist specializing in science and public policy, to Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU commissioner in charge of Health and Food Safety.]*

I understand that you belong to a Commission whose chief strategy seems to be expedience (the art of making issues go away). That is not leadership and in the case of the previous Commission's



Eric Poudelet, former director responsible for Bee Health.

decision to ban three essential and benign insecticides (known as neonicotinoids or neonics), this problem will not go away.

You have clear grounds to [retract the 2013 draft Bee Guidance Document] It was never approved by the European Council (for good reason); [the European Food Safety Authority] has learnt that their expert advisory working group had conflicts of interest which they had hidden from the authority; and the previous DG Sanco had several directors that had been found to be too close to anti-pesticide activist campaigners.

...

On neonicotinoids, the activist Save-the-Bees campaigns have been full-frontal-fraudulent. They continue to claim that the bees are dying out due to pesticides (with no evidence), they are presenting an alternative to farming that will have serious consequences on food security and they are quite simply extorting donations with open lies at your expense.

If you retract the draft Bee Guidance Document, you can give the NGOs six months to provide scientific evidence to prove that neonics are responsible for the decline in bee populations (which they'll also have

to provide evidence that bee declines are taking place). At the same time, the farmers need an immediate derogation as you sort out the regulatory mess – farmers have suffered far too much from the games of your predecessors.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Time to Decide on Neonicotinoids: A Letter to European Commissioner Andriukaitis](#)**