

Question for written answer E-002466/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Special support for the beekeeping industry – Greek beekeepers’ survival at risk

Beekeeping is a pillar of the rural economy and biodiversity in Greece and Europe. However, this sector is faced with enormous challenges that are a direct threat to its viability. Climate change, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, fires and constant influxes of African dust have significantly affected the availability of pollen and nectar, hindering the survival of bees.

Furthermore, the import of adulterated honey, unfair market practices and rocketing production costs are making the beekeeper’s profession financially unviable, so that increasing numbers of producers are abandoning the sector. The support programme provided under the common agricultural policy is proving to be insufficient to cover current needs.

Beekeepers play a crucial role in protecting biodiversity and agriculture, and unless immediate and substantive measures are taken, the sector will reach a dead end.

In view of this:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to provide immediate support to beekeepers who are suffering the effects of adverse climate conditions and extreme economic pressures?
2. How does the Commission intend to reinforce the controls to combat adulteration and unlawful imports of low-quality honey, which are harmful to the reputation of local produce and are driving producers to despair?
3. Will the EU step up its policies on promoting a viable beekeeping industry and protecting biodiversity, for example by introducing an annual pollination subsidy per hive?

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