



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

33rd meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2013

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE THREATS BY
NEUROTOXIC INSECTICIDES TO POLLINATORS**

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*

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Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Draft Recommendation No. X (2013) of the Standing Committee, adopted on X December 2013, on threats by neurotoxic insecticides to pollinators

The Standing Committee to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the convention;

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that the convention gives particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 120 (2006) on the European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates;

Noting the wide concern over decline in pollinators, which threatens the sustainability of pollinator services both to human cultures and to wild biological diversity;

Aware that an abundant scientific literature points to neonicotinoid and other neurotoxic pesticides as largely responsible for the decline of some species of pollinators, affecting their viability and foraging success;

Recalling the efforts of the European Parliament and the Commission to forbid temporarily the use of such pesticides in the territory of the European Union;

Recalling COP-5 Decision V/5 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in particular the international initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators aimed to monitor pollinator decline, address taxonomic information on pollinators, address the economic value of pollination and promote conservation restoration and sustainable use of pollinator diversity;

Worried that neurotoxic pesticides, even in low concentrations, might be affecting the survival of populations of wild pollinators;

Welcoming European Commission Regulation (EU) No. 485/2013 which restricts the use of 3 neonicotinoid pesticides for 2 years as from 1st December 2013;

Recommends Parties to:

1. Restrict in the whole of the territory of the Convention the use of clothanidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxan, until they may prove safe for managed honey bees and wild pollinators;
2. Promote research on the effects of neonicotinoid and other neurotoxic insecticides on honey bees and wild pollinators;
3. Contribute with conservation action and research activities to the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators, particularly those on wild pollinators;
4. Inform the Standing Committee on the action taken to implement the points above;

Invites Observer States to implement this recommendation.