

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lugovia Will Decide on the Ban of Controversial Bee-Killing Pesticides

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The European Commission is forcing the Lugovian government to take a decision over the ban of pesticide group neonicotinoids that has demonstrated harming pollinators like honeybees. However, a research report published last week by the Lugovian Academy of Science fails to give a conclusive answer about the threat of neonicotinoids and the impact of the potential ban.

The decision to ban widely used pesticides neonicotinoids (or neonics) has sparked heated debates all over the world. At stake, there are environmental concerns and the survival of honeybees from one side, and the lack of good alternatives for protecting crops and raising prices for food on the other.

Some European governments have banned the pesticide, but the Lugovian government has avoided taking a position on this matter so far. The requirement by the European Commission sent today leaves the government no choice.

The prime minister of Lugovia Anna Tugo admits that this is a difficult decision that inevitably will harm some people and put important economic sectors at risk. "We are obviously very proud of Lugovian clean environment and high-quality honey production, but agriculture also has great importance for us, being among our major export articles," she explained.

Prime minister Tugo emphasizes the importance of hearing and considering every position in this matter: "The decision would not happen behind closed doors, I am convinced that it requires a broad-based debate. We need to listen to everybody before taking any action."

The government so far has failed to get a clear instruction from the Lugovian scientists due to the lack of consensus about the need and the impact of the ban.

The leading researcher of the Academy of Science, professor Adam Hiri in the telephone interview with LugoviaNewsOnline.lg avoided a definitive answer whether banning would be the best option for the country. "We have, obviously, evidence about the negative impact of neonics to the bees, but there are other factors as well," he stated.

Apparently, agricultural experts do not agree with zoologists and ecologists to formulate a common position in the report commissioned by the government. "The effects are multi-dimensional. The report concludes that there are some controversial results, as well as the negative impact on economy and agriculture," explained the professor.

In order to discuss the position to support the ban or not, the government has called up for a meeting where each interest group will have a chance to express their opinion and come to a joint conclusion.

As reported previously, neonicotinoids are used as pesticides on farms and in urban landscapes. They are absorbed by plants and become transferred to bees and other

pollinators. Research has demonstrated that neonicotinoids change the behaviour of bees and are one cause for their death.

In recent years, the evidence about negative effects has been growing so that several countries have banned the pesticides. Neonicotinoids developed in the 1990s are less toxic than previously used pesticides and are used in over 120 countries. Neonics have 140 different crop uses.

