

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The aim: Develop your position regarding to ban / no ban. Build a coalition with as many partners and allies as possible.

The resources (e.g. finances, human resources, political influence, reputation, etc.): Sufficient: enough people, research possibilities. Very bad reputation regarding the use of scientific arguments. Big political influence.

The roles: Ministry strives to be neutral, however, you try to support the interests of big farmers and pesticide producers.

Known information:

It is believed that the proposal to ban neonics would have a negative impact on agriculture and food production in Lugovia with a negative impact on crop yields and quality. To enable farmers to grow their products, the use of alternative pesticides will be enhanced and thus be released into the environment, with potential negative impacts on the environment. For several neonicotinoid applications, alternatives are not available.

Attitudes towards the following aspects: Food quality and safety are very important; Innovation, R&D (alternative pesticides) – semi-important, however, have a lot of money to support process; Environmental goals (bee preservation) – not important even in discussions; Food security (availability of reasonably priced food) – important; Economy (industry profit and state budget, job market) – very important.

Skeletons: the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture has a potential conflict of interest – ties to pesticide wholesalers, e.g. his wife owns one of the biggest pesticide wholesalers.

