

## ESA Statement

### European Parliament Draft Resolution on Difficulties faced by the European beekeeping sector

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The European Seed Association (ESA), representing the European Seed Industry, has taken notice of the draft motion for a Resolution of the European Parliament as proposed by the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee and regarding the difficulties faced by the European bee keeping sector.

ESA welcomes the sustained initiative of the European Parliament to support the European bee keeping sector and to investigate the difficulties this sector has faced during recent years.

Bee pollination is an essential element during the production of many seeds and therefore a very important tool in the production of its high quality products for the European seed industry.

ESA therefore supports very much the initiative to investigate the problems of the bee keeping sector and to find the real cause(s) of the problems.

We support the European Parliament in its policy to demand the actions needed to find the real causes of the problem and to develop a consistent strategy to help the bee keeping sector to establish sustainable good bee keeping practices.

We are convinced that to do so, all available scientific expertise and data must be taken into account.

ESA therefore disagrees with the conclusions of the draft European Parliament Resolution in so far as systemic insecticides used as seed treatments are considered a single possible cause for the bee losses encountered over the recent years.

This conclusion is to our opinion not in line with all respective studies of international experts available today and with the respective research carried out so far.

ESA considers seed treatments as proven tools allowing for a more environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture with clear advantages to biodiversity.