



DEFRA  
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Rt. Hon Owen Paterson MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Dear Minister,

We are writing on behalf of Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) and [REDACTED] to request that the UK supports the European Commission proposal for a two year suspension of the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides when it is voted on in Brussels on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

You will be aware of the recent report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which concluded that the use of three neonicotinoids as seed dressings or as granules poses an unacceptable risk to bee and other pollinator species. EFSA recommended that the three actives in question – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – be subjected to a much more rigorous regulatory assessment. In response, the European Commission has proposed to suspend the use of these three actives on crops attractive to bees, sunflowers, oil seed rape, maize and cotton, across the EU as a precautionary measure starting no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

PAN UK and [REDACTED] believe this proposal to be long overdue and both precautionary and a minimum response. We believe that approval for these products should be suspended until it has been demonstrated that they do not pose an unacceptable threat to bees and pollinators that are so vital for agricultural production.

Far from being a threat to farming this suspension should stimulate innovation and help encourage farmers to move towards more sustainable agricultural practices. The UK's biggest farmer – the Co-op – has already welcomed the proposal.

We are therefore asking that the UK support the proposal put forward by the commission when it is voted on at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Phytopharmaceuticals on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Keith Tyrell  
Director PAN UK

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