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From: Sam Barratt [mailto:sam.barratt@avaaz.org]
Sent: 15 March 2013 12:30
To: Robinson, Guy (Defra)
Cc: PS.Advisers (Secretariat)
Subject: Re: Discussion on bees this week / Avaaz campaign

Thanks Guy

It would be good to meet next week

This is the email that we just issued on the decision today.

Best wishes,

Sam Barratt

Avaaz

Campaign / Communications Director

Mob: + 44 7909 836139

Tw: @samdbarratt

Sk: sam.barratt

Friday 15th March, 2013

Avaaz condemns Britain, Germany decision to keep killing bees, considers legal review

Avaaz today condemned the decision by Germany and Britain to abstain in the vote in Brussels and reject the proposed two year moratorium on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. The vote -- which saw 9 against, 5 abstentions and 13 in favour -- failed to reach a majority as a result of the UK and German decision to abstain. Avaaz and other organisations are now taking legal advice as to whether the failure to pass this deal today is open to judicial challenge.

Iain Keith, Senior Campaigner for Avaaz said: "Today Germany and Britain have caved in to the industry lobby and refused to ban bee-killing pesticides. Today's vote flies in the face of science and public opinion and maintains the disastrous chemical

Armageddon on bees, which are critical for the future of our food. The 2.5 million people who have signed the Avaaz petition to protect bees will keep fighting the battle for their survival."

Over 2.5 million people across the world backed Avaaz's campaign and this week over 359,000 of them called and emailed ministers and officials in Britain and Germany but in the end none of these governments supported the Commission's proposals. The campaign can be seen here: http://www.avaaz.org/en/hours_to_save_the_bees/?m15

The EU Commission, buoyed by public support, resisted pressure from key capitals to waterdown its proposal. Avaaz hopes they will now appeal the decision.

New opinion polls carried out for Avaaz by YouGov and by TNS Emnid this week found that:

- 71% of the British public and 90% of Germans want their government to support the proposed ban in today's vote.

- 68% in the UK and 90% in Germany say their government should not permit the use of these pesticides in their country until it can be proved that they are safe for animals, humans and bees.

ENDS

For more information or interview requests please contact [redacted]

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov (UK) or TNS Emnid (Germany). Total sample size was

1,968 adults in the UK and 1,001 adults in Germany. Fieldwork was undertaken between 19th - 20th February 2013 in the UK, and between 8th - 9th March 2013 in Germany. The UK survey was carried out online, and the German survey was conducted by phone. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+) or German adults (aged 14+).

Avaaz is a 20-million-person global campaign network that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages).Our team is spread across 19 countries on 5 continents and operates in 16 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's latest campaigns here, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

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From: Sam Barratt [mailto:sam.barratt@avaaz.org]
Sent: 11 March 2013 12:18
To: Robinson, Guy (Defra)
Subject: Guy: Discussion on bees this week / Avaaz campaign

Hi Guy,

I am writing from Avaaz -- a global campaigning organisation with 20 million members (800,000 in the UK) about the UK position on Bees. We are hearing that the UK may oppose the two year suspension due to possible impacts on the agricultural sector and also pending a scientific review by DEFRA.

We believe that the evidence from Italy is clear, the impacts of the possible downsides overblown by the pharma industry and that the precautionary principle should be applied to the use of neonicotinoids.

We know the NFU argue that this could have an impact on jobs and the pharmaceutical companies claim that the use of pesticides has boosted EU commodity crop revenues by more than 2 billion euros a year but the core value of bees in pollination for 90% of the food we eat is huge and a two year moratorium to fully understand their impact on the bee population is merited. The recent EU report coupled with the evidence from Italian study and the US suggest that there is enough data in place to take a view on this.

We have results of a YouGov poll in which show the following sentiment from the UK public which we will be issuing this week and a number of other

- 71% of Britons say the UK should vote in favor of the EU moratorium;
- 68% say the UK should not permit the use of these pesticides domestically until it can be proved that they are safe for animals, humans and bees; and
- 88% believe bees are important for a healthy population and the sustainable production of food in Britain.

It would be really good to hear your thoughts on Government policy on this.

We are planning a significant number of campaigns across the UK, Germany, Brussels and Spain this week -- which I wanted to forewarn you of -- and would welcome the chance to speak to you about this in advance.

My contact details are below.

Best wishes,

Sam Barratt

Avaaz

Campaign / Communications Director

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Sk: sam.barratt

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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