



PRESS RELEASE

Henri Clément, President of the French National Beekeeping Union (UNAF), organizer of the 41st Apimondia Congress in 2009, is officially sending out the “Call of Montpellier”.

Production of honey and other hive products is dropping in a worrying manner on all continents; this is confirmed by the papers being presented at the Apimondia 2009 congress. Pollination, 80% of which is taken care of by domestic bees, is threatened, putting in peril numerous agricultural crops and the world food supply. Moreover, as bees also pollinate many wild flowers, the biodiversity of all plants is under threat.

The causes of this high death rate are multiple but the two main ones are:

- Intoxication by phytosanitary products
- Bee diseases

In order to protect bees - essential to biodiversity - and beekeeping, UNAF once more asks that both French and foreign government officials in charge make the following measures a priority:

- 1 - Stricter and fuller evaluation of the toxicity of phytosanitary products and crops from genetically modified organisms.**
- 2 - Immediate withdrawal of products which prove to have toxic effects for domestic bees and the thousands of other bee species.**
- 3 - More thorough research into the development of efficient treatment against the parasite Varroa and other bee diseases.**
- 4 - Concerning the high death rate of bees, setting up of appropriate means to allow thorough research into the causes as much phytosanitary as pathological, using the most suitable methods.**

The international congress on bees and beekeeping, Apimondia 2009, which is taking place in Montpellier from the 15th to 20th September, reasserts the need for these strong and immediate measures asked for by the French National Beekeeping Union, as much on a national as international scale.

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