



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants
Unit G2 - Animal Health
Head of Unit

Brussels
SANTE/G2/LK/tcn (2026)4884942

Subject: Measures to prevent the introduction of *Tropilaelaps* into the EU

Dear Mr Lupše,

Thank you for your e-mail of 31 March 2026 with the letter of the European Beekeeping Association (EBA) on *Tropilaelaps*, to two of our functional mailboxes (our reference: Ares(2026)4363994). In that letter EBA summarises its understanding of the situation and suggests several measures.

In that context, I would like to inform you that in the Commission we have taken several steps starting already late last year, when Apimondia and the EU Reference Laboratory for bee health informed us about the unclear but worrying situation. Indeed, we share your concerns, and within this context we discussed the issue with the competent authorities of the Member States at the meeting on 15 December 2025 of the Animal Health and Welfare Section of the relevant Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF). The information is publicly available online:

- Presentation, point A.02:
https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e8c1b4ae-32b8-4a80-8f3d-aad884a8796c_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20251215_pres-26.pdf
- Summary report, point A.02:
https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/92105a63-5aa4-4908-8097-c7b7180cbcf3_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20251215_sum.pdf

You might wish to note that current EU rules developed in a framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('Animal Health Law') and applicable as of 21 April 2021 are considered proportionate and fit for use, conforming to international standards of World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and to science (slide 13 of the presentation referred to above). The delegates of the Member States at PAFF agreed with that.

Also EU rules for the entry of honeybee queens contain an additional specific element, as they already require additional obligations for handling consignments after the entry into the Union, unlike for other commodities. Those obligations are laid down in Articles 71 and 72 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 (slide 7 of the referred presentation).

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Full compliance with those obligations requires close collaboration between importers, beekeepers, official laboratories and competent authorities and they can ensure the safety of the queens before they are introduced into EU colonies, by detecting and mitigating possible infestations with small hive beetle and *Tropilealaps*. That is even regardless of other risk-mitigating measures (certification, pre-export inspections, situation in the third country and of apiary of origin, etc.). To note, in this context, the Commission is not aware of any major shortcomings in relation to the entry into the Union of consignments of honeybee queens from listed third countries. We hope that you can echo this message to your members.

In addition, we have initiated other:

- Asking for official information from the competent authorities of certain third countries with a view to taking appropriate follow-up action, if needed.
- Initiating the organisation of a comprehensive WOAAH workshop with financial support from the European Union, to be held in the Caucasus region soon, with the expected participation of experts from the region, including from all EU Member States.
- Asking the EU Reference Laboratory for bee health to cover the topic and discuss best practices of handling consignments after the entry into the Union, on the agenda of its next annual meeting with the National Reference Laboratories.

Please note also that the competent authorities of the Member States themselves may initiate even more actions (slides 12-15 of the referred presentation) in collaboration with beekeepers. That is both for improved compliance with current rules and to consider legislative and non-legislative actions on their territory.

I hope you find the above information useful and may be able to contribute to many of those, by way of efforts from your membership in the given EU Member State.

Yours sincerely,

Francisco Reviriego Gordejo

CC (in ARES): B. Logar, L. Kuster, Z. Ilevicius, M. Klemm.