



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Reversing the decline of pollinators
- Information from the Swedish delegation, supported by the French and Luxembourg delegations

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Swedish delegation, supported by the French and Luxembourg delegations on the above subject, to be dealt with under 'Any other business' at the Council (Environment) meeting on 10 June 2021.

Reversing the decline of pollinators

- Information from the Swedish delegation, supported by the French and Luxembourg delegations -

The unprecedented decline in insect populations, especially wild pollinators, is a reality that the European Union can no longer ignore.

While the EU Pollinators initiative has set strategic objectives and actions to address the decline of pollinators, the action taken by the European Union to protect pollinators has so far failed to meet the challenges, as the European Court of Auditors underlined in its special report in 2020.

Therefore, we call on the Union to reinforce this action and to protect pollinators effectively. We call on the Commission to work rapidly on measures such as strengthening the regulatory framework, (re)evaluating and possibly withdrawing from the market substances that present the greatest harm to pollinators, enhancing the substitution with low-risk and non-chemical alternatives and promoting research and innovation, among others.

We also call on the Commission to integrate the objective of better protection of pollinators into all of its relevant legislative proposals and forthcoming recommendations under the Biodiversity Strategy, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

In this context, we would like to point to the ongoing important work to establish specific protection goals for the environment for use in the risk assessment processes and to encourage the development of a methodology to define such goals. The protection goal for honeybees is the first specific protection goal to be elaborated and will be discussed at the AGRIFISH meeting in June.

In conclusion, it is essential that the Commission propose a robust and concrete framework for action in order to achieve tangible and decisive results for the protection of pollinators.