

19<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Dear Dr Potočník,

I beg you, as the European Commissioner for Environment, to support the restriction of neonicotinoid-based pesticides.

Bayer CropScience's statement, that there is no convincing argument against the continuing use of neonicotinoid-based products, is false. In 2009 I wrote my Master's thesis on the causes of honey bee mortality, and the evidence for damage caused by neonicotinoid pesticides to bees was compelling. Schmuck et al (2001), Bonmatin (2003) and Bortolotti et al (2003) offer proof of the neurotoxic effects of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides, and the behavioural disruption caused by neonicotinoid use at sub-lethal toxic levels.

All over the world, corporate interests are dominating more and more in the name of free markets and democracy. 'Innovation' and 'economic growth' have become catch-phrases to justify environmental damage and social injustice that will make life worse for us, and for our grandchildren. This is not democracy. These are not the principles you have fought so hard to uphold, under the banner of the European Union.

Solidarity, fairness and action on principle make the EU the only real threat to mass corporate domination. If you back down, who else will defend the rights of future generations of EU citizens?

Please support the EU Commission's proposal to restrict the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Bernice Lee MSc  
Vienna

References:

Bonmatin, J. M., Moineau, I., Charvet, R., Fléché C., Colin, M. E., Bengsch, E. R., 2003. A LC/APCIMS/MS method for analysis of imidacloprid in soils, in plants and in pollens. *Anal. Chem.* 75, 2027-2033.

Bortolotti, L., Montanari, R., Marcelino, J., Medrzycki, P., Maini, S., Porrini, C., 2003. Effects of sub-lethal imidacloprid doses on the homing rate and foraging activity of honey bees. *Bulletin of Insectology* 56: 63-67.

Schmuck, R., Schöning, R., Stork, A., Schramel, O., 2001. Risk posed to honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L. Hymenoptera) by an imidacloprid seed dressing of sunflowers. *Pest Manage. Sci.* 57, 225-238.