

Bees & bugs: Europe's urgent need to strengthen the protection of biodiversity against pesticides

Abuse of derogations for neonicotinoids in
Romania

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- 2025 The derogations granted in 2024 for the treatment of sunflower and corn seeds for the period January-May 2025 have been suspended by the courts following a lawsuit filed against the Ministry of Agriculture by ROMAPIS, the Federation of Beekeepers' Associations of Romania, and Ecoruralis, the alliance of small Romanian farmers.

General situation of the Romanian Agriculture

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Size of farm (ha)	Total area	%	Number of farmers	%
< 10 ha	4 004 290	31,3	2 723 090	95,80%
10 – 99,9 ha	2 653 680	20,7	102 400	3,60%
> 100 ha	6 104 850	47,8	16 010	0,50%

- 0.5% of Romanian farmers manage 47.8% of the total arable land area
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Over the past 11 years, the Ministry of Agriculture has granted a total of 55 derogations for the use of neonicotinoids. The voice of the vast majority of 99.5% of Romanian farmers, including beekeepers, has never mattered, while the requests of 0.5% of wealthy and powerful farmers have always been taken into account.

The Romanian population and pesticides

The EU-wide survey conducted by IPSOS in 2023 shows that Romanians, among all Europeans, are:

- the most concerned about the impact of pesticides on their families' health (84.1%)
- the most concerned about food safety (87.1%)
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The survey conducted in Romania by CURS in 2025 shows that Romanians:

- do not want food products that come from crops treated with pesticides (89%)
- do not believe that farmers in Romania should use pesticides that are banned in the European Union, such as neonicotinoids (89%).

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The EU should not tolerate such situations within its own jurisdiction: Member States that do not comply with EU rules and, moreover, exert pressure at EU level to change some of its fundamental values – which place the EU at the forefront of the world in the most honourable way, just to please a certain minority. A categorical shift in the EU's tendency to protect the environment and show empathy towards all EU citizens would transform the European community in a way that would make many EU citizens no longer proud to belong to it.

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We cannot allow this to happen!



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