Apimondia News

November 25th 2026

Strasburg Anti-Pesticides Protest

Press release - Apimondia Bee Health Commission

Over 300 NGOs from 27 countries gathered on November 24th, in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to protest the pesticide Omnibus and call for its withdrawal. Omnibus X, a proposal package on food safety simplification procedures unveiled by the European Commission in December 2025 aiming to boost farm productivity.

An open letter sent to President Metsola on September 17th and signed by over 500 scientists, opposing to the Omnibus regulation states: "The Omnibus proposes to amend ten separate pieces of food and feed safety legislation in a single package, including rules on the approval and renewal of plant protection products, the setting of maximum residue levels, and controls on imported food. Such a broad and consequential reform would ordinarily be expected to rest on a thorough ex-ante evaluation of its effects. To date, no such comprehensive assessment has been made available to the co-legislators". The 500 scientists warned that scrapping periodic renewals could increase risks to human health and the environment.

Still, EPP co-rapporteurs Herbert Dorfmann and Michele Picaro open the door to longer approval periods for pesticides. Last week the co-rapporteurs presented two options: unlimited approvals for most substances, or reserving them for low-risk substances and biocontrol while extending approvals for most other pesticides to 20 years.

However, there are several disagreements over a number of issues, which delay the voting and the decision of the European Commission.

Worker trade unions, beekeeper associations, pesticide victims, doctors, scientists, health and environmental organizations or patient and consumer associations. Their demands are summarised in this document signed by hundreds of Organisations in Europe.

Since, the beginning of 2026, there have been numerous opposing posts and letters from Scientific groups, such as the UN-backed experts sounding alarm, several press releases, such as the one from Apimondia on April 9th, and the recent letter to president Metsola on November 18th (which has now grown to 2,000 signatures), all pointing on the omnibus' impact on human rights.

The protest on November 24th, was very strong! President Metsola, even promised to answer the letter of the 2000 scientists.