AMENDMENT
TO BE MOVED
ON REPORT

After Clause 73

BARONESS BAKEWELL OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE

Insert the following new Clause—

“Protection of pollinators from pesticides

(1) A competent authority shall not authorise for use any pesticide product, active ingredient, safener or synergist unless it is satisfied that there will be no significant short-term negative effect, and no long-term negative effect, on the health of honeybees or wild pollinator populations.

(2) A pollinator risk assessment report relating to the relevant substance shall be published by an expert body.

(3) The expert body shall consist of individuals free from vested interests in pesticide use, who shall have been independently appointed.

(4) The pollinator risk assessment report must include—
   (a) data examining acute and chronic effects of the relevant substance on honeybees, bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies,
   (b) all relevant available scientific evidence relating to any pollinators,
   (c) conclusions relating to the likely acute and chronic effects of the relevant substance on honeybees, bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinators,
   (d) an assessment of the likelihood of synergistic effects, and
   (e) the identification of any risks to pollinators where the available evidence is insufficient to reach a conclusion.

(5) The expert body must consult the public on the draft content of the pollinator risk assessment report.

(6) When making any authorisation decision the competent authority must—
   (a) aim to achieve a high level of protection for pollinators,
   (b) be satisfied that the requirements of subsections (2) to (5) have been met,
   (c) consult all relevant authorities with environmental responsibilities,
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(d) consult other persons as the competent authority considers appropriate,

(e) lay before Parliament, and publish, a statement explaining why the competent authority is satisfied that the requirements of subsection (1) have been met,

(f) ensure the public has been informed by public notice early in the decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner, that a decision will be made, and

(g) ensure the public has been consulted on the decision that the competent authority intends to make, including on any mitigation or restriction measures that are proposed.

(7) The consultation period referred to in subsection (6)(g) will be at least three months, except for emergency derogations where the period will be at least four weeks.

(8) This section will come into force on 1 February 2023.

(9) In this section—

“authorisation of use” includes authorisation by derogation;

“competent authority” means—

(a) in relation to England, the Secretary of State;
(b) in relation to Wales, the Welsh Ministers;
(c) in relation to Scotland, the Scottish Ministers;
(d) the Secretary of State when acting with the consent of either or both paragraph (b) or (c).”

Member’s explanatory statement
The aim of this new Clause is to fix a gap in the pesticide authorisation process which currently omits any assessment on the long-term effects of pesticides on honey-bees and omits any assessment of the effects on wild pollinators.
Environment Bill

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25 August 2021