

Environment Bill

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.

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25 August 2021
