

**Advice 16-2015 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on bee mortality: study of the results for Belgium from the Epilobee project and proposition of modifications of the sampling protocol for the future active surveillance program.**

The Scientific Committee has investigated the potential causes of high winter mortality of bee colonies in Belgium observed in the European Epilobee project.

The Scientific Committee discusses a number of potential causes which may explain the high winter mortality such as the degree of varroa infestation of bee colonies, the specific weather conditions during the winter 2012-2013, the Belgian beekeeping practices and the limited availability of authorized veterinary medicines for bees.

The Scientific Committee makes also several proposals to improve the sampling protocol for the surveillance of bee mortality in the future and especially recommends to continue the bee mortality surveillance program over a longer period at the Belgian and/or European level.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".