

Advice 10-2017 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of a draft royal decree on the veterinary guidance within the framework of the control of varroosis.

Executive summary

Background & Terms of reference

Varroosis is a disease of bees which occurs very frequently and which forms a threat for the survival of the colonies. Hence the control of the varroa mite, *Varroa destructor*, is very important in apiculture. Veterinarians as well as bee-keepers play a crucial role in this control.

The Federal Public Service of Health, Food safety and Environment has written a draft royal decree on the veterinary guidance within the framework of the control of varroosis. This decree is submitted for advice to the Scientific Committee. No further scientific questions are asked.

Methodology

The evaluation of the draft royal decree is based on data of scientific literature and on expert opinion.

Conclusion

Because the draft royal decree hardly contains terms which allow a scientific risk assessment, the Scientific Committee has formulated only a limited number of general remarks.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the draft royal decree represents a first step in the veterinary support of apiculture to start the control of varroosis.

However, the Scientific Committee has found a number of lacunas and bottlenecks which must be addressed if the sector and the government wish to evolve towards a more efficient control of varroosis. On one hand, there are too little veterinarians with sufficient knowledge of bee-keeping in general and of the control of varroosis in particular. On the other hand, a concrete plan for varroosis control is lacking.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.