



Neonicotinoids in Romania - the end of an era

Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS, two organizations of peasants, farmers and beekeepers, respectively, won the lawsuit that will put an end to the illegal exemptions for neonicotinoids - pesticides banned in the European Union - granted by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture for the past 12 years.

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Yesterday, March 18, 2025, the Cluj Court of Appeal issued a historic decision¹ suspending the authorizations issued by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) for the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, substances banned in the European Union, thus confirming the illegality of this practice. MADR can appeal within 5 days.

The organizations Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS, representing communities of peasants, farmers and beekeepers in Romania, initiated this court case against the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture, challenging the exemptions that allowed the use of prohibited substances that affect bees, pollinators, peasant agriculture and agroecology in Romania.

The court's decision and its implications

The Cluj Court of Appeal ordered the suspension of authorizations no. 16895/05.12.2024², no. 16896/05.12.2024³ and no. 16897/05.12.2024⁴, issued by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture, until the final resolution of the lawsuit on the merits. This is a measure with immediate and enforceable effect, which means that **any use or marketing of the neonicotinoids concerned must cease immediately** .

The impact of neonicotinoids on the environment and agriculture

Neonicotinoids are highly toxic pesticides for bees and other pollinating insects, contributing to colony collapse and biodiversity loss. They also persist in soil and water, affecting ecosystems and endangering human health. The decision of the Cluj Court of Appeal represents an essential step in protecting Romanian farmers, beekeepers and consumers.

¹ <https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Screenshot-2025-03-18-at-16.01.27.png>

² https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/cruiser_350_fs_2025.pdf

³ https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/nuprid_al_600_fs_2025.pdf

⁴ https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/picus_600_fs_2025.pdf

What's next?

Following this decision, Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS have requested⁵ the responsible authorities – including: the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture, the National Phytosanitary Authority, the National Environmental Guard – to take **immediate measures** to withdraw from the market and destroy the stocks of neonicotinoids in circulation. They also demanded strict monitoring and sanctioning of any attempts at illegal use of these substances.

"This is a victory for Romanian peasants, farmers, but also for the entire society. Today's decision demonstrates that justice can correct the abuses of the administration and protect the rule of law and the interests of peasants and small farmers - who represent the overwhelming majority of Romanian farmers⁶. It is a clear signal that agriculture must evolve towards sustainable practices, and the Ministry of Agriculture must stop the policy of illegal derogations that have favored the destruction of biodiversity," says Ramona Duminicioiu, president of the Eco Ruralis Association.

"This decision marks the end of a disastrous policy that seriously affected the beekeeping sector in Romania and the entry into a normality that is found throughout the rest of the EU. We hope that the finality of this legal approach will bring Romanian beekeepers the certainty that our sector, which is being severely tested these days, is protected at least with regard to the risk of poisoning with these pesticides. Romania must follow the example of European states, supporting agroecological solutions instead of toxic pesticides." concludes Constantin Dobrescu, vice president of the Federation of Beekeeping Associations of Romania - ROMAPIS.

Special thanks. Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS thank the lawyer Dumitru Dobrev for his professionalism and exemplary involvement in this process.

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<https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Informare-punere-in-aplicare-Decizie-Suspe ndare-CApel-1.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.ecoruralis.ro/2023/08/07/taranii-polenizatorii-si-agroecologia/>