



Brussels, 7 April 2025

## **European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) Solidarity Statement with Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS in their struggle against prohibited neonicotinoids**

Dear representatives of the European Union Institutions,

Dear representatives of national institutions in Romania,

European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) stands in unwavering solidarity with its Romanian member organisation Eco Ruralis<sup>1</sup> and the Federation of Beekeeping Associations of Romania-ROMAPIS<sup>2</sup> in their efforts to uphold environmental justice and the rights of peasant farmers and beekeepers. Their recent legal victory on neonicotinoids represents a significant advancement for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity protection across Europe. The Cluj Court of Appeal's decision on March 18, 2025<sup>3</sup>, to suspend the unauthorized use of neonicotinoid pesticides and to remove them from the Romanian market and stocks marks a significant advancement for peasant farmers, beekeepers, and environmental advocates across Europe.

Over the past decade, derogations allowing the use of neonicotinoids—pesticides banned by the European Union due to their harmful effects on pollinators, biodiversity, and human health—have been issued in Romania. These derogations, totalling 57 over 12 years, were granted without consulting peasant organizations, thereby marginalizing the voices of small-scale farmers who form the backbone of Romanian agriculture. The recent court ruling underscores the illegality of such practices and emphasizes the necessity for inclusive and lawful decision-making processes in agricultural policies.

Neonicotinoids are notorious for their toxicity to bees and other pollinators, contributing to colony collapse and significant biodiversity loss. Their persistence in soil and water further jeopardizes ecosystems and poses risks to human health. The court's decision mandates the immediate cessation of these harmful substances, aligning Romania with EU regulations and safeguarding the environment.

ECVC recognises and applauds Eco Ruralis and ROMAPIS for their unwavering dedication to justice and environmental stewardship. Their collaborative efforts have not only halted the illegal use of neonicotinoids but have also set a precedent for peasant organizations throughout Europe to assert their rights and influence policy decisions that directly impact their livelihoods.

We strongly believe that the Romanian authorities, including MADR, the National Phytosanitary Authority, and the National Environmental Guard, will act as stewards of their lands, people, and nature by ensuring the proper implementation of the court's decision. We

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecoruralis.ro/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.romapis.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ecoruralis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2-Press-release-neonicotinoids.docx.pdf>

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trust that they will take the necessary steps to withdraw neonicotinoid products from the market and promote agroecology that positively contribute to biodiversity and public health. Furthermore, we call for the implementation of stringent monitoring systems to prevent any unauthorised use of these pesticides in the future.

This victory is a testament to the power of collective action and the importance of upholding environmental laws that protect our ecosystems and food systems. ECVV remains committed to supporting peasant farmers and beekeepers in their pursuit of agroecology across Europe. The recognition and protection of peasants' rights are fundamental to ensuring food sovereignty and social justice. Agroecology serves as a key solution to building resilient farming systems that respect biodiversity, enhance local knowledge, and empower small-scale producers.

Best wishes,

On behalf of the ECVV Coordinating Committee