

Question for written answer E-003572/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Singer (Renew)

Subject: Extending the validity of TRACES certificates for transporting bees within the EU

Electronic animal health certification via TRACES is needed to transport bee colonies within the EU and to import them from third countries. This is granted on the basis of, among other things, tests for American foulbrood, Tropilaelaps mites and the small hive beetle, and is currently only valid for 10 days.

In practice, the short validity period causes considerable problems. Queen bees remain at mating stations for around two weeks to ensure successful mating. After the 10 days have expired a new certificate is required, but this can prove difficult to obtain since no sealed brood is often available for the necessary sampling. Even for migratory beekeeping, where colonies remain in certain regions for several weeks, a new TRACES certificate is required for the return journey, even though the state of the colonies' health usually remains unchanged during this period. This causes avoidable red tape for beekeepers and authorities.

1. Does the Commission plan to extend the validity of TRACES certificates for bees to up to 28 days, for transport to mating stations or migratory beekeeping for instance?
2. Would the Commission be prepared to certify both outward and return transport if the state of the bees' health was evidently sound?
3. What conditions would be necessary for such an adjustment within the framework of EU animal health law?

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