

SBA policy notes: pesticide endorsement and relationship with other national bodies.

Many SBA members will be aware of the recent heavy losses of honey bees in Germany and elsewhere in mainland Europe due to failure in the delivery system of some systemic neonicotinoid pesticides applied as seed dressings. In view of this the Executive of the SBA feels it is timely to clarify the Association's position with respect to pesticide marketing and use. While the Executive recognises that pesticides play an essential role in food production and in human, animal and plant health, SBA policy on endorsement of commercial pesticide products is clear. The Association does not endorse pesticide products of any kind. This has always been the case, and on the one occasion that the Association was asked to endorse pesticide products, the invitation to do so was turned down (Market Convenor's report, Scottish Beekeeper, March 2002, p.64). There are no plans to alter this policy. Further, with respect to use of pesticides, the 2006 AGM (Item 11 of the minutes, AOCB, sub-item b) passed a resolution to the effect that *'The SBA should continue to highlight its concerns and raise public awareness regarding systemic insecticides, and press the competent authorities to take appropriate action'*. On the latter point, the membership may wish to note that the Executive has been particularly active, raising the matter with DEFRA, the Scottish Government Rural Directorate, and recently with the Scottish Parliament through Robin Harper MSP.

The membership may also wish to note that the SBA is entirely distinct from, and independent in every respect of, any other national beekeeping body. Accordingly, the Executive takes the view that the policies of other national bodies are for their respective memberships to formulate.