

Open letter against legalizing aerial drone spraying of pesticides

A legislative initiative that could significantly affect biodiversity, small farmers and the health of the population has a lightning-fast path in the Romanian Parliament

OPEN LETTER

Bucharest, December 11, 2025

Beekeepers' and farmers' associations, along with civil society organizations, are warning about the alarming pace at which a legislative initiative is advancing in Parliament that would allow aerial spraying of pesticides with drones - a practice banned in the European Union since 2009.

The proposal was adopted by [the Senate \(L494/2025\)](#) in emergency procedure at the end of November 2025 and was immediately transmitted [to the Chamber of Deputies \(PL-x 508/2025\)](#), which set an extremely short deadline (only 3 weeks) for the report of the Committee on Agriculture. This haste raises questions about the transparency and substantiation of the decision-making process. The practice of hastily adopting laws with major impact, around the holidays, is deeply worrying and unjustified, given that chemical treatments are not applied in the cold season.

Aerial spraying of pesticides is strictly prohibited by Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides (art. 9), transposed into national legislation by GEO no. 34/2012. The motivation for this ban is a solid scientific one: the major risk of drift of active chemical substances, which, carried uncontrolled by air currents, contaminate surface waters, residential areas, organic crops and natural habitats, endangering both pollinators and the entire biodiversity as well as the population.

Authorizing drones does not eliminate these risks. On the contrary, it masks the real dangers of irrational use of technology, primarily affecting beekeepers, small and medium-sized farmers, vulnerable to unintentional contamination with chemicals.

So we ask: why this obsession with pesticides in Romanian politics? Romanians DO NOT want pesticides! [A national opinion poll](#) conducted by CURS in April 2025 shows that 89% of Romanian citizens oppose the use of pesticides, including those banned in the EU, and want to reduce dependence on chemicals in agriculture.

The signatories of this letter invoke:

1. Ban on aerial spraying of pesticides in the European Union regulated by [Directive 2009/128/EC](#) (art. 9) and [Emergency Ordinance no. 34/2012](#) (art. 9). _____

2. The right to health protection guaranteed by art. 34 of the [Romanian Constitution](#).
3. The right to a healthy environment guaranteed by art. 35 of the Romanian Constitution.
4. Environmental protection guaranteed by Articles 191, 192 and 193 of [the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).
5. The precautionary principle guaranteed by [the Aarhus Convention](#) and the related transposition into national legislation.

We publicly ask the Chamber of Deputies to reject this legislative initiative and to respect European and national commitments regarding environmental protection and public health and the development of sustainable agriculture.

We also **call for a broad debate** on the sustainable use of pesticides in Romania and the assessment of the risks and/or opportunity of using new technologies in agriculture, to ensure decisions in the public interest.

Last but not least, **the signatories of this letter respectfully request participation in the meetings of the parliamentary committees** notified in the legislative process. We consider it essential to participate in the meetings of **the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services** and **the Committee on Environment and Ecological Balance**, in which this draft law will be included on the agenda. We request that physical access be ensured for representatives of the signatory organizations, with the possibility of online access for the territorial organizations on the list of signatories, so that our contributions can be formulated directly, transparently and in a timely manner.

Signatories:

1. Constantin Dobrescu – vice president
Federation of Beekeeping Associations in Romania – ROMAPIS
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2. Ramona Duminişoiu – president
Eco Ruralis Association – in support of organic and traditional farmers
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3. Orieta Hulea – General Director
World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF Romania
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4. Joachim Cotaru - president
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5. Mihaela Veşan - president
Center for Ethical and Solidarity Initiatives – CRIES
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6. Elvys Sandu - president
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7. Marius Cobârzan - president
Association for the Support of Peasant Agriculture – ASAT Romania
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8. Cristina Chinole - president
Association of Women and Families from Rural Areas - AFFMR
9. Marius Tudosiei - president
Short Food Chain Association – ALAS
10. Oana Mondoc - coordinator
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11. Bogdan Gioarÿ – president of the
European Network for the Promotion of a Responsible Economy in the 21st Century - REPER21
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12. Viktoria Luft - president
Open Landscape Federation <http://www.peisajdeschis.ro>
13. Albert Imre – president
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14. _____
Natura 2000 Coalition Federation (composed of 19 environmental organizations) www.natura2000.ro
15. Lavinia Andrei – president
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16. Irina Breniuc – president
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17. Gabriela Iordan - coordinator
The Academy of Compost Consortium, composed of **the Climato Sfera Association, the Culturalis Association, the Livada Comunitarÿ Mÿrÿiÿor Civic Initiative Group and the Association for Sustainable Consumption** www.academiadecompost.ro
18. László Szabó - president of
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19. Valentin Silygeanu – senior strategist

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20. Marta Viscut – president

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21. Mircea Crisbăyanu – president

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