



OBJECT: Joining the Campaign *CooBEEration – Beekeeping as a common good*

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF.....

Considering the high ethical value of the initiative **CooBEEration Campaign**¹, and recognising to the bees and to beekeeping the value of Global Common Good, thanks to the fundamental role that they play as an element of sustainable development of territories and, at the same time, as an essential tool to safeguard biodiversity and food security.

Recognising the need and urgency to dedicate higher attention at all levels from a political and legal point of view to safeguarding and strengthening beekeeping as an activity bringing on common global interests

Keeping in mind the role of Municipalities and Local Authorities in the sustainable human development of a territory both for political lead and for strategic coordination.

Considering the strict and direct link between beekeeping and the peculiarity of each territory and the important role that beekeeping can play both as a tool for protecting and safeguarding the environment, and as an instrument for economic and social independence.

Taking into account that the main objective of CooBEEration campaign is to change the perception of beekeeping from a simple income-generating activity to “Global Common Good” and that the activities of the campaign will aim in particular to:

- promote awareness-raising on the role of the bees and of beekeeping in safeguarding biodiversity and food security, and as an opportunity for economic sustainable development of a territory;
- strengthen the commitment of institutions and governments at all levels, local,

¹ The CooBEEration campaign is part of the project “*Mediterranean CooBEEration: a network for beekeeping, biodiversity and food security*”, promoted and realized by FELCOS Umbria and APIMED and funded by the European Union.

National and International, in the defence and protection of bees and beekeeping;

- build a global alliance that brings together and involves all actors willing to cooperate in the defence of bees and beekeeping, recognising the value of bees and beekeeping as a common good;

DECIDES

To join the “CooBEEration Campaign – Beekeeping as a common good” and to become a “Bee-friendly municipality”², committing itself, in particular, to:

1. Support in its local community the development of beekeeping activities, **widespread in the whole territory**, as an opportunity both for generating revenues and for social inclusion (**economic and social empowerment**);
2. Include and improve in the planning of green public areas the growing of bee-friendly plants;
3. Place great attention on the treatment of tree-lined boulevards in town, avoiding it during flowering periods and in **presence of honeydew**;
4. Reduce progressively, and eventually eliminate, the use of weed killers in the maintenance of roadsides and green public areas.
5. Promote reflection and debate both within the Municipal Council and among the local community involving citizens and the main stakeholders on the use of crop pesticides in agriculture and their impact on environment and health, and on strategies of promotion and protection of the territory through the adoption of good practices in agriculture based on sustainability;
6. **Taking into consideration art. No. 4 of National Law N.313/2004, to enforce art. 94 of Regional Law N.12/2015 of the Region of Umbria, that bans any type of treatment with pesticides and herbicides on woody and herbaceous plants used in agriculture, ornamental plants, and wild plants that could be dangerous for the bees at the beginning of flowering periods (phytosanitary treatments can be realised on woody crops, ornamental plants, and wild plants, after the flowering period, upon elimination or natural withering of potential underlying flowering plants);**
7. **Undertake anti-mosquito treatments that focus on prevention and favour larvicidal interventions based on the use of organic products (made upon Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis);**
8. Promote and sustain initiatives for the support of beekeeping – events, exhibitions, conferences, prizes, etc. – also in collaboration with other Municipalities, including

² Campaign the “Bee-friendly Municipalities” mark, that can be used in the institutional communication of the Municipality.

the realisation of concrete and symbolic actions in its own town, to raise awareness among the citizenship, e.g. the realisation of a “**Bees’ garden**” (with nectariferous or aromatic plants, and possibly beehives for demonstrations), the creation of didactic and informative paths, the use of bees as an artistic-decorative theme in projects of urban requalification and town decoration (e.g. street-art), and so on;

9. Promote initiatives of information and awareness-raising on the importance of beekeeping as a common good, involving especially all levels of school education in its territory;
10. Share the contents of the campaign through its own informative channels, publishing in its websites the link to the website of the campaign (www.coobeerationcampaign.org);

Date and place