

## Memorandum

on declaration of the International Month of Bees and Beekeepers.

The participants of the Third International Meeting of Young Beekeepers, being aware of the need for protection of bees as an important element of stability in both natural and artificial ecosystems, suggest that May be declared the Month of Beekeeping beginning with the year 2013.

Bees are an important part of nature in all geographical zones as pollinators enabling the reproduction of a significant number of species which constitute the basis of phytocenoses on which the balance of terrestrial ecosystems and sustainable development of the civilisation depends.

The presence and health of bees in the open countryside is a sign of the quality of the environment for all living things including human beings.

The honey-bee (*Apis mellifera* L.), standing at the pinnacle of evolution of the eusocial apidae, is of benefit in the form of products used in the food industry and other applications, the benefit of which has been proven both by our ancestors' experience and the results of contemporary research.

Hundreds of years of coexistence of humans and the honey-bee have contributed to the cultural development of the population in all of the countries where this species of bees originates from. The honey-bee also spread into other regions along with human culture. Beekeeping in its various forms is therefore a part of human cultural heritage worth protecting.

Protection of bees and their keeping has been a source of profound understanding of natural principles and has taught mankind to respect nature and protect it as a whole.

For the reasons mentioned above we suggest that May, the month when bee colonies reach the pinnacle of their development be declared the Month of Beekeeping and 20 May be declared the International Day of Bees and Beekeepers to commemorate the significance of bees and beekeeping for nature and human society.

We would like to submit this suggestion to the management of all beekeeping organisations which work with young beekeepers, and appeal to them, with the full weight of their influence, to address the public administration authorities and legislators of their country, in order to jointly promote the idea of informing the widest possible section of the general public of the significance of bees both for nature as such and for human beings as its integral part.

Participants of the Third International Meeting of Young Beekeepers IMYB 2012

Presented in the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 10 July 2012