EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate D – Animal Health and Welfare
Director

Brussels,
D1 ES (2010)D/410658

07/05/2010

FAX - 07/05/2010

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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Update concerning the detection of the small hive beetle (<em>Aethina tumida</em>) in the State of Hawaii, USA</td>
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Message

Further to our previous fax sent on 06/05/2010, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have sent us additional information concerning the detection of small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) in the State of Hawaii.

To date, the infestation of small hive beetle (SHB) is limited to three beekeepers and a swarm trap in five locations on the island of Hawaii. Broader surveys conducted with other beekeepers on the East side of Hawaii have all proven negative. The affected locations are at least 100 km from most hives belonging to the three major queen breeders: Kona Queens, Hawaiian Queen and Big Island Queens.

In March 2010, Hawaiian State officials inspected 10% of the hives and found no evidence of SHB in all apiaries inspected. On 4 May 2010, State officials inspected 10% of the hives at 3 locations for Kona Queens through visual inspection and by following the National Honey Bee Pest and Diseases protocol and found no evidence of SHB. On 6 May 2010, State officials inspected 7 additional apiaries on the western part of Hawaii and no SHB was detected. State officials also established a bait trap in all seven locations using wax, pollen packs, rotting fruit and apple cider as attractants. Visual inspection of rotting fruit in the area was conducted with no evidence of small hive beetle to date. Surveys will continue over the coming days on the island of Hawaii.

We are in regular contact with APHIS and will provide additional information as it becomes available. We intend to raise this issue at the Pesticides SCFCAH on Tuesday 11 May and again at the SCFCAH planned for 1-2 June.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Bernard Van Goethem


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