

European Beekeeping Congress 2026

PRESS KIT

Let's prepare for the future together!

Organized by UNAF and L'Abeille Gasconne



Lot-et-Garonne, a welcoming land



Press release

The European Beekeeping Congress – Beecome – will be held from the 1st to the 4th October 2026 at the Agen Exhibition Centre. A true benchmark event, Beecome has established itself as the essential meeting place for French and European beekeeping organizations, scientists, industry professionals and the general public.

A program rich in conferences and exchanges

For four days, the congress will offer a packed program of lectures, round tables and discussion sessions, led by internationally renowned researchers and experts.

Between 6,000 and 8,000 visitors are expected, and 6,000 delegates.

The exhibition space, free and open to all, will offer the public the opportunity to discover the major players and innovations in the beekeeping sector. European.

The spirit of the congress

Under the theme "Together, let's prepare for the future!", this congress highlights the essential role of bees in maintaining ecosystem balance and food security. For four days, beekeepers, researchers, businesses, and passionate citizens will come together to share innovations, discuss environmental challenges, and build sustainable and responsible beekeeping practices. This event will also be a celebration of nature open to all, with activities and events.

educational activities, a honey market, demonstrations and friendly gatherings around biodiversity.

Survival of bees and sustainable development of beekeeping



Through this central theme, the congress will address all of the Issues related to the survival of bees and the sustainable development of beekeeping:

Bee health (Varroa destructor, Aethina tumida, Asian hornet, etc.)

ÿ **Environmental quality** (plant protection products, nectar-producing resources)

The beekeeping economy (honey market, value creation, traceability, labeling)

Apitherapy and bee products

Beekeeping in Europe

The **latest scientific discoveries**

AGEN AGORA

A dynamic and innovative exhibition space

Beecome 2026 will host more than 150 exhibitors, representing all partners in the beekeeping sector:

Beekeeping equipment, transhumance, packaging, equipment demonstrations, trade, cosmetics, consulting, analysis laboratories, services and technological innovations.

A space dedicated to local producers, a gourmet market, a market for honeys and bee products and a honey bar will be open to the public.

The congress will also offer numerous festive and educational activities, accessible to the general public and particularly to young people:

Fun activities, exhibitions, conferences, workshops discovery, etc.

A European beekeeping congress with an environmental dimension

Organized in **Agen**, in the heart of the Southwest, Beecome 2026 will be an opportunity to showcase the **richness of local heritage** and regional products. tastings of bee products, farmers' markets, discovery of the beekeeping profession and highlighting of local know-how.

A congress with a strong environmental focus

Beekeepers have always been **environmental whistleblowers** . Today, the bee is seriously threatened, many wild pollinators are disappearing, and biodiversity is declining.

Climate change , which is becoming increasingly pronounced, directly impacts nectar resources and the vitality of colonies, adding new challenges to an already weakened sector.

Saving the bees: a crucial issue for the future

Since the Second World War, the bee has suffered the negative effects of certain **plant protection products**, jeopardizing its survival, particularly in large-scale farming regions.

A valuable skill to pass on

Beekeeping requires a wide range of skills in **biology, botany, geology, and meteorology**, as well as demanding technical and sanitary expertise. This **valuable know-how** constitutes a living heritage that is essential to **preserve and pass on**.

The essential role of bees in biodiversity and the economy

Today, bees ensure the pollination of **nearly 80% of flowering plants**, contributing to the preservation of more than **20,000 threatened plant species in Europe**.

Pollination also represents a **major economic issue** for agriculture. Pollen analysis of honey makes it possible to identify the plants foraged within a radius of approximately **3 km around the hives**, providing a valuable indicator of the evolution of the flora.

The bee, revealing major societal issues

The plight of bees is a matter of concern for the whole of society and calls for collective action around major issues:

The **preservation of biodiversity and the environment**

The **link between town and country** and the relationship between man and nature

Well **-being and health** through bee products

New Aquitaine and beekeepers

The Beekeeping Congress has a European focus with a truly international reputation.

However, it is clear that beekeepers in the geographical area located near the congress venue constitute a predominant audience.

New Aquitaine holds a significant place in the landscape with approximately 7,000 beekeepers (all categories combined in beekeeping activity (production, pollination, etc.)), owning approximately 20 to 1,000 hives.



New Aquitaine and beekeepers

According to the same regional study, the region has approximately 182,400 settlements bees (hives) in production (2023 data).

In France, the total number of hives overwintered at the end of 2023 is estimated at approximately 1,850,000 beehives declared to the DGAL.

Nouvelle-Aquitaine therefore has about 9% to 10% of the national beekeeping stock (182,400 out of ~1,850,000 hives).

The region ranks among the top 3 French regions in terms of declared beekeepers, often behind Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Grand-Est. but ahead of several regions (including PACA or Occitanie depending on the year).

According to some honey production estimates, the region is also among the largest producers of French honey, with regional production exceeding 4,000 tonnes in recent years (FranceAgriMer/ITSAP data), behind Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes but at or above other major regions.

The gala evening

To conclude these three days of discussions, an evening **The gala** will bring together **exhibitors, communities, partners and sponsors** around a **local meal**, a true symbol of **conviviality and sharing**.

This evening will be **enlivened by a philharmonic orchestra of 40 musicians**, offering a **festive and warm moment** , punctuated by **dances and songs**.

This highlight will also be the occasion for the presentation of the winners of the photo competition and the innovation award, and **for thanking everyone involved. our benefactors** and to **celebrate three major anniversaries :**

Apicités' 10th anniversary, the 20th anniversary of the "Abeille" program "Sentinel of the Environment" and the 80th anniversary of UNAF.

Objectives & Target Audiences

To promote exchanges between beekeepers, farmers and researchers.

Promote the protection of pollinators and biodiversity.

To present the scientific and technical innovations of the sector.

Raising public awareness of the importance of bees.

Highlighting the ASE programs – Bee Sentinel of the Environment, Apicité.

Target audiences: beekeepers, NGOs, businesses, communities, institutions, general public.



Together, let's protect the future

Each partnership directly contributes to the protection of bees and biodiversity. By becoming a sponsor, you participate in a collective movement that fosters hope and innovation. UNAF and Abeille Gasconne invite you to join this human and environmental adventure , so that beekeeping remains, more than ever, a source of life.

