SAVE-THE-DATE

Benelux
SECRETARIAAT-GENERAAL
SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL

THE ASIAN HORNET IN THE BENELUX

7.12.2026 **10.00 – 16.00**

GENERAL SECRETARIAT BENELUX
RUE DE LA REGENCE 39, 1000 BRUSSELS

The Asian Hornet Beyond Borders

The **Asian hornet** (*Vespa velutina*) continues to spread across Europe, posing increasing challenges for biodiversity, beekeeping, agriculture and public safety. As the species does not recognize national or regional borders, effective prevention, surveillance and management require close cross-border cooperation and the exchange of scientific knowledge and practical experience. Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 encourages cross-border cooperation – the Benelux and its neighbouring regions provide fertile ground for concrete collaboration.

The **Belgian delegation** to the **Benelux Working Group on Invasive Alien Species**, with the support of the **Benelux Secretariat-General**, invites experts from the Benelux countries and neighbouring regions to share their knowledge and practical experience on the Asian hornet and explore opportunities for closer cross-border cooperation.

We focus on three essential phases:

- **State of Play in the Benelux: What are we doing?** – Current distribution and spread, governance, management strategies and key challenges across the Benelux countries and regions.
- **Scientific Evidence: What works?** – The latest scientific knowledge on management approaches, including spring trapping and selective trapping, nest destruction, impacts on biodiversity and non-target species, public communication and lessons learned from countries where the Asian hornet has been established for longer.
- **Towards Better Benelux Cooperation: What can we do together?** – Cross-border surveillance, data sharing, monitoring protocols, communication strategies and opportunities for future Benelux cooperation.

The programme will feature expert presentations, case studies, and interactive discussions aimed at identifying good practices and strengthening future cooperation.

Objectives?

- Exchange of knowledge and practical experience across countries and regions
- Compare management approaches and discuss their effectiveness.
- Strengthening cooperation within the Benelux and with neighbouring countries

Target audience?

Policymakers, researchers, beekeeper organisations and other professionals active in the field of invasive hornets.

Feel free to share this Save the Date with your relevant contacts in this field.

Would you like to register already? Please do so via this link. For questions or further information, please contact l.djait@benelux.int.

Working language: English

The Asian Hornet in the Benelux	
09:20 – 09:30	**Reception & Coffee**
09:30 – 09:50	**Opening & Policy Framing** • Welcome by the Benelux & Flemish Delegation – by Mr Nicolas Pardon • Keynote by the European Commission (IAS team) (TBC)
SESSION 1: State of Play in the Benelux: What are we doing?	
09:50 – 11:20	**National & Regional updates:** • Current situation, distribution and spread • National Action Plans, Governance and responsibilities • Management strategies and guidelines • Key challenges and priorities **Interactive discussion (30 min): (survey)** • What are the main differences in management approaches across the Benelux, and what explains these differences? • Which approaches or practices could be useful for other Benelux countries and regions?
11:20 – 11:30	*Coffee Break*
SESSION 2: Scientific Evidence and International Experience: What works according to science and experience?	
11:30 – 13:00	**Topics:** • Effectiveness and selectivity of spring trapping • Nest destruction (biocide use, environmental impact and alternative methods) • Impact and protection measures of the Asian hornet on biodiversity, beekeeping/agriculture and human health • Communication towards citizens and stakeholders **Interactive discussion (30 min):** • What does the current scientific evidence tell us about effective management? Which knowledge gaps and uncertainties remain? • Is there scope for a common Benelux position on spring trapping and biocide use? • What can the Benelux learn from international experiences ?
13:00 – 14:00	*Lunch*
SESSION 3: Towards better Cross-Border Cooperation: What can we do together?	
14:00 – 15:30	**Topics:** • Contingency planning and early warning for other Vespa species, such as V. mandarinia and V. orientalis • Data and information exchange • Joint research and other opportunities for future cooperation **Interactive discussion (30 min):** • Which monitoring and surveillance activities could be coordinated across Benelux borders? • What data and information should be shared, and how? • On which issues would a common Benelux communication be useful? • Which concrete joint actions or projects could be developed within the Benelux?
15:30 – 15:40	**Closing Reflection by the Walloon Delegation** – by Mr Etienne Branquart