



PROVISIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF SELF GOVERNMENT

KUVENDI I KOSOVËS
СКУПШТИНА КОСОВА
ASSEMBLY OF KOSOVO

Law no. 02-L-111

ON APICULTURE

Assembly of Kosovo,

Based on Chapter 5.1 (n) and 9.1 26 (a) of the Constitutional Framework for Self Government in Kosovo (UNMIK Regulation 2001/9 dated 15 may 2001).

Approves:

LAW ON APICULTURE

Chapter I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Purpose

This law is to regulate bee breeding, preventive measures to prevent and fight bee diseases, observation of facilities of the production of bees.

Article 2
Definitions

Expressions used in this law shall mean the following:

“**Apiculture**” – shall mean breeding, growing, production and circulation of species bees *Apis Mellifera*, productions bees as well as the apiculture equipments;

“**Bee**” – shall mean the queen bee, worker bee and bumblebee;

“**Bees “stealer”**” – shall mean a bee that attacks another bee for predated the food.

“**Bee society**” – shall mean community of queen bees, worker bees and bumblebee placed in the beehive.

“**Bee park**” – shall mean a place where the birds are placed with bees, may be opened or any crib with stacks, but may be placed also in transport machine;

“Productions of bees are” – honey bee, beeswax, pollen, swarn of bees and poison of the bees (apitoxina);

“Beekeeper” – shall mean a natural or legal entity dealing with apiculture for the benefit of productions bees and queen bees;

“Natural honeybee”– shall mean honey and productions of the honey without usage of the appendixes as well as without chemical handling;

“Organic honeybee”-shall mean a honey bee produced under the permanent supervision analyzed prior putting in circulation. In the organic honeybee is restricted the handling with medicals for eliminating searching of residues;

“Ministry” – shall mean Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD);

“KVFA” - shall mean Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency;

“BLK” – shall mean Beekeepers League of Kosovo;

“L.R” – Lankstrot Root;

“D.B” – Dadant Blat.

Article 3

The importance of beekeeping sector

3.1 The apiculture is an important sector of the country’s agriculture, a source of natural high nutritive, dietary and medical value products.

3.2 Bees through pollination influence in the growing of production of many agriculture crops.

3.3 Keeps the flora of forests and pastures influencing in the regeneration of nature as an ecology command chain.

3.4 Food activity of the apiculture is conducted in a bee park by the beekeepers that are a legal and natural entity and possessing a collective of bees as well as necessary equipments for the development of this activity under provision of this law.

Article 4

Register of beekeepers

4.1 Legal or natural entity who deals with the apiculture is obliged to notify the Municipal Agriculture Directorate by 30 April for each calendaric year and for the number and place of bee’s association in order to insert in the register of beekeepers.

4.2. The Municipal Agriculture Directorates are obliged to bring the register of beekeepers in MAFRD in the term of 30 days after the closing of registration.

Chapter II
Article 5
The placement of the bee park

5.1 The bee park may be immovable or moveable.

5.2 Beekeeper is obliged to place the bee park in order not to interfere the neighbors, animals and public communication.

5.3 It is restricted the placement of bee park near to the roads, railways and airports.

5.4 It is restricted the placement of apiary near to the plant for production of sugar, juices, vines stockyards and cesspits.

5.5 Manufactures that deal with production and processing of fruits, grape as well as similar units to whom are used the cover that is harmful for bees, are obliged to keep the covering in a closed place.

5.6 Juice producers or other cakes are obliged through a protected network to protect the production facility or storages of these products from the bees, in order not to come till to the general damage of the collective of bees in this facility.

5.7 Conditions from the paragraph 5 of this article will not be applied in the places, where are no blooming of the plants and during the winter season.

Chapter III
Article 6
Movement and transport of bees in the pasture

The utilization of the pastures from the bees is a free and without compensation.

Article 7

7.1 Any facility that exercises the activity of the beekeeper that moves inside and outside of the Municipality with Bee Park must do the request in written in the Office of Agriculture Municipal Assemble 20 days prior the movement.

7.2 The request must be attached also the veterinary report on health state of the bees and report on undertaken veterinary measures.

Article 8

The Municipal Assemble of Agriculture after taking the opinion of the expert in the cooperation with the Association of Beekeepers gives the approval or refuse for the placement of the bee park.

Article 9

Any subject after the approval of request for the movement of bees in the certain place, it must keep the distance from the other bee parks at least 50 meters and to respect all the assigned duties from the veterinary inspectors for prophylactic and curative measures that are applied during that time and in that area too.

Article 10

10.1 Beekeepers from the other countries may use the pastures of Kosovo only after taking permission by MAFRD.

10.2 Request for permission of the beekeeper must have the attached documentation:

- a) Number of the bees associations;
- b) Compliance of the land owner or municipality where it will be placed the bee park;
- c) The certification of the health state of the bees from the veterinary service of the country where the bees come from;
- d) Compliance of the Beekeepers League of Kosovo for the utilization of the selected location.

10.3 The permission shall contain the place, municipality, time of arrival of the bees as well as duration on utilization for pastures in Kosovo.

10.4 During the movement of bees, the beekeeper must possess the certification of the health state and transport certification issued by the Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency.

Article 11

Placed bee parks in the pastures may place the table in the visible place, showing number of the associations, identity and address of the owner as well the nub number of Bee Park under the register of the competent authority.

Article 12

Three days prior the placement of the bees in pasture, the beekeeper is obliged to notify the veterinary or livestock inspector for the place of placement of the bee park.

Article 13

Transportation of the bees in a bee park may be done with all transport means provided to close and to prevent the flying of bees during the transport.

Article 14

14.1 Apart from the Owner that bees are transported also the conductor of the bees transport must have the knowledge for the apiculture.

14.2 Transit transport of the bee parks within Kosovo territory provided by Ministry through a sub legal enactment.

Article 15

With the purpose of the obstacle on display of abduction of bees from the bees “stealer” the beekeeper is obliged to undertake all preliminary measures for the avert of this phenomenon in its bee park.

Article 16

16.1 For the specialized means for the movable bee park a beekeeper is obliged to require permission for their movement by Kosovo Police Service.

16.2 The beekeeper for the specialized means is not obliged to have a permanent registration.

Chapter IV

Article 17

Bee Reproduction

For the selection of bees must be used the type of the European Apis Mellifera and local subtypes of bees.

Article 18

For the selection of bee type, the beekeeper must have into consideration the suitable of the type of local conditions as well as resistance over to pests and diseases.

Article 19

19.1 Bees families are created with the breeding of existential families of bees.

19.2 Swarm of bees and queen bees be produced in the specialized bee park for the certified reproduction by MAFRD.

19.3 The certification of bees for the production of swarms of bees and queen bees provided by Ministry through an Administrative Instruction.

Chapter V
Article 20
Protection of bees

The beekeeper is obliged that in its own bee park to undertake all measures for prevention, fighting and obstacle of spreading of diseases using registered preparations and approved too by competent authority Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency (KVFA).

Article 21

21.1 Beekeepers, the Association of Beekeepers and Beekeepers League of Kosovo that acts in the territory of Kosovo are obliged to undertake all preventive measures for fighting of bees under provisions of the Veterinary Law and sub legal acts came out from this law.

21.2. Measures from paragraph 1 of this article are done under supervision of the KVFA Veterinary Inspector.

Article 22

22.1 Each beekeeper with the suspicion of presence of disease with the spreading character like: Nosemosis, Varosis, Acarosis, Pestis Apium, and Pestis Apis as well as unidentified damages or poisons are obliged to notify immediately the veterinary inspector for diagnostic of the disease.

22.2 The inspector must undertake all measures of the prevention of disease outbreak made under the Veterinary Law.

Article 23

The prophylactic measures and fighting of bees diseases are specified at the beginning of each calendar year for the next year by Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency in cooperation with Beekeepers League of Kosovo.

Article 24

24.1 It is restricted the destruction of bees collective except for cases of certifying in laboratory way by the relevant at institute of the presence of endanger contagious disease, Pestis Apium.

24.2 The destruction is done in the presence of the veterinary and livestock inspectors as well as representatives of Beekeepers League.

24.3 The compensation of damages for the destruction of bees is adjusted under provision of Veterinary Law.

Article 25

The circulation and use of the preparation for the prevention and fighting of bees diseases under defined criteria in the Law for Medical Products and Medical Equipments consulting with Experts of Beekeepers League of Kosova and the relevant Institute.

Article 26

It is restricted handling with preparations which do not have the permission for use under the Veterinary Law and Law on Medical Products and Medical Equipments.

Article 27

While moving bees, beekeeper must posses health condition certificate and transport certificate issued by Kosovo Veterinary and Food Agency.

Article 28

Use of toxic preparations and other matters is restricted as a reason of harming humans health through bee products.

Article 29

29.1 Full blossom spray near the location of bees is restricted.

29.2 In needed cases of the spraying of plants, beekeepers and association of bees must announce 10 days prior, through medias and announcements, in order to take all necessary measures for the saving of bees.

Article 30

30.1 After proclamation of announcement regarding the time and location of spraying with chemical preparations (pesticides) dangerous for bees, beekeeper is obliged to take all necessary protective measures, by closing bee houses, or by moving bees at least 6 km away from the area where the spraying would take place for a certain time.

30.2 If the beekeeper does not take the adeq - uate measures as described in paragraph 1 of this article than she/he shall have no right to ask for compensation of affected bees.

Chapter VI

Article 31

Sanitary and reproduction material requirements for bees

Bee products may be traded only after meeting hygiene and sanitary requirements.

Article 32

Honey traded as foodstuff must:

- a) not contain any artificial aroma or flavor, but only contain the aroma of the plant which the nectar is taken from;
- b) not contain humidity more than 18%;
- c) not contain saccharose more than 5%;
- d) fructose and glucose contents not less than 65%;
- e) not go through fermentation process;
- f) not go through thermal processes above 45 °C;
- g) not contain synthetic color;
- h) not contain any preservative or flavoring.

Article 33

Chemical composition of honey and other bee product must meet all requirements on quality honey and honey productions.

Article 34

Honey destined for confectionery and industry, consumed by people must meet all honey standards for consumption, except for diastolic number and percentage of hydromethylphulphurol (HMF).

Chapter VII

Article 35

Conditions for putting into circulations the Collective Bees, Queen Bees and Bee Productions

Natural or legal entity dealing with apiculture may put into circulation the following:

- a) Collective of bees and queen bees, if they are healthy and do not coming from the collective bees infected by diseases like Pestis Apium and Pestis Apis, American and European foulbrood, Nosemosis, and Acarosis;
- b) Honey and honey products that meet all sanitary requirements and contains no harmful matters to human health;
- c) Bee house of types Lankstrot Root or Dadant Blat;
- d) Standard type of wax leaf made by pure wax of 100% , containing no other matter (paraffin);
- e) Wax bread must have declaration on chemical contents.

Article 36

Minimal conditions for honeybee quality and honeybee products put in circulation, products containing honey as basic, minimal conditions for defining and store the quality, methods on quality control, methods of taking samples as well as methods of physical and chemical analysis, shall be laid down with sublegal act by the Ministry.

Article 37

All products of bees put in circulation with label, or package or in dish shall contain the declaration having these data:

- a) Product name, or its trade name;
- b) Manufacturer's name, and address of producer;
- c) Production-packing date, and expiry date;
- d) Net quantity of product;
- e) For honeybee, plant origin and processing methods;
- f) If honeybee and honeybee product are mixed with other products must be declared the involvement relation in %;
- g) Other data important to costumers.

Article 38

Declaration of honeybee and honeybee products from the import except data laid down in Article 37 of this law must have information showing that the products are imported. Information shall be written in official languages used in Kosovo as well as name of the state where products were made in.

Chapter VIII

Article 39

Facilities for honeybee and honeybee products processing and storing

39.1 Natural or legal entity dealing with processing and store of honeybee must have these facilities:

- a) For receiving and harvesting of honeybee and label maintenance;
- b) For processing, filling, and packaging honeybee;
- c) For storage of packed products;
- d) For wardrobe and sanitary equipments.

39.2 Number, space, and equipments of facilities laid down in paragraph 1 of this article must meet these standards:

- a) Walls and floor shall be made of humidity resistant material, painted with light colors, and smooth surfaces for easy maintenance;
- b) Doors and windows shall be constructed to keep insects and gnawers out,
- c) Equable diffusive light with set intensity;
- d) Adequate equipments for producing technology, made of material with no impact in change of honeybee quality;
- e) Cold and hot water equipments for a proper maintenance of facilities and equipments;
- f) Be able to remove sewage of the floor, sanitation or cesspool equipments.

39.3 Facilities for processing and storing honeybee products shall be licensed by the MAFRD.

39.4 Procedures for licensing facilities for processing and storing honeybee products shall be laid down with a sub legal acts issued by the MAFRD.

Article 40

Transportation of honeycombs from Bee Park till to the harvesting point shall be carried out in such way not allowing contamination of honeybee and bee access.

Article 41

Honeybee and honeybee products must be preserved in dry spaces where temperature is below 25°C and relative air humidity is up to 80%.

Article 42

Harvesting honeybee from frames containing nestful bee is restricted.

Chapter IX

Article 43

Surveillance

Enforcement surveillance of this law and its sub-legal enactments is carried out by livestock and veterinary inspectors.

Article 44

Except the authorizations under legal provisions the livestock inspector is authorize to:

- a) Control bee park, bee collective, beekeeper's equipments and working tools, bee products in production and circulation;
- b) Inspect emplacement of bees in permanent or movable bee parks, and also to issue orders for dislocation if the emplacement is in opposition to the Law;
- c) Control usage of pesticides which are poisonous to bees during the flourishing period of plants;
- d) To disallow usage of pesticides harmful to bees which are not permitted by competent authorities or were not announced in media for use of pesticides.

Chapter X

Article 45

Punitive provisions

45.1 A fine of an amount of 200 € up to 2.000€ will be applied for offences committed by natural and legal entity in the following cases:

- a) Not declaring number of collective of bees as described in Article 4 of this Law;
- b) Putting the apiary in contradiction with Article 5 of this Law;
- c) Moving bees without permission by competent authority described in Article 7 of this Law;

- d) Use of Kosovo pastures in contradiction with Article 10 of this Law;
- e) Transport of bees in contradiction with Articles 13 and 14 of this Law;
- f) Beekeeper does not take measures to prevent “predatory” bees Article 15 of this Law;
- g) Move of the bee park with specialized vehicles without permission by competent authority under Article 16 of this Law;
- h) Not fecundating Apis Mellifera bees species in accordance with Article 18 of this Law;
- i) Produce of swarms and bee queens in contradiction with Article 19, paragraph 2, of this Law;
- j) Not taking preventive measures in fighting bee diseases under the supervision of competent inspectors according to Article 21 of this Law;
- k) Not notifying the competent inspectors in case of any doubt of spreading any epidemic bee disease under Article 22 of this law;
- l) Doing the destruction of bees in contradiction with Article 24 of this Law;
- m) Not treating bees with preparations and medications under Article 26 of this Law;
- n) Use of toxic preparations which through the honeybee products are harmful for human health under Article 28 of this Law;
- o) Spray of plants without notifying according to the Article 29 of this law;
- p) Trade of bee products in contradiction with Articles 31 and 32 of this Law;
- q) Putting in circulation the collective of bees and queens in contraction with Article 35, of this law;
- r) Not containing any declaration as defined in Articles 37 and 38 of this Law;
- s) Not possessing facilities and equipments as defined in the Article 39 of this Law.

45.2 A fine of an amount of 100 € up to 500€ will be applied for offences committed by natural and legal entity in the following cases:

- a) Acting of the apiculture activity in the contradiction with Article 3, paragraph 4, of this Law;
- b) Not respecting the distance of bee placement as defined in Article 9 of this Law;
- c) Not putting the table and not informing the appropriate inspector under the Articles 11 and 12;
- d) Not having the certificate showing health conditions of bees in case of their removal by operation of the article 27 of this Law;
- e) Bee products are not stored as defined in Articles 41 and 42 of this Law.

Article 46

All payments that result from application of punitive provisions of this law shall be maid to the Kosovo Consolidated Budget.

Chapter XI
Transitional and final provisions
Article 47

With the entry into force of this Law, the Law on Apiculture in Official Gazette KSAK No. 13, page 526 April 28, 1974 will be abrogated as well as any provision that is in the contradiction with this law.

Article 48

The present law shall enter into force after adoption by the Assembly of Kosova on the date of its promulgation by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Law No. 02/L-111
30 March 2007

President of the Assembly of Kosovo

Kolë Berisha