



# A 9<sup>th</sup> European reference mandate, in bee health, for ANSES

The Sophia-Antipolis laboratory of ANSES was officially appointed as European Union Reference Laboratory for bee health as per the publication in the official EU gazette dated 2 February 2011.

For several years now, a phenomenon resulting in the weakening and mortality of bee colonies has been attested to in many countries around the world. The potential causal factors are many, and include, bacterial and viral infections are among the major ones.

This situation requires the harmonisation of surveillance systems, as well as the reinforcement and coordination of research on the European level.

The European risk management system for animal health includes reference laboratories that provide scientific and technical support to the Commission and to the Member States for their activities related to the monitoring and control of animal diseases.



The European Commission has designated the Sophia-Antipolis laboratory of ANSES as European Union Reference Laboratory for bee health. This newly-created mandate was assigned to the laboratory for a five-year period, from 1 April 2011 through 31 March 2016.

In this capacity, ANSES's Sophia-Antipolis laboratory is responsible for setting the basic conditions for the implementation of effective surveillance programmes, and more specifically for supporting on a technical level the pilot surveillance programme provided for by the Commission.

This European reference mandate is the 9<sup>th</sup> one assigned to ANSES out of the ten that the European Commission has entrusted to France. The Agency holds a total of 80 national, European and international reference mandates.

The Sophia-Antipolis laboratory also holds several other reference mandates, including those as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Reference Laboratory for bee diseases, NRL for infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and NRL for Q fever.

Its research topics include bee infections and their mode of transmission and honey contaminants.

## Find out more

- > Presentation of the Sophia-Antipolis laboratory
- > List of the Agency's national, European and international reference mandates



French Agency for Food, Environmental  
and Occupational Health & Safety  
Sophia-Antipolis Laboratory  
Les Templiers - 105 route des Chappes - BP 111  
F-06902 Sophia-Antipolis Cedex - France  
[www.anses.fr](http://www.anses.fr)