

Food and Trade Issues in Europe



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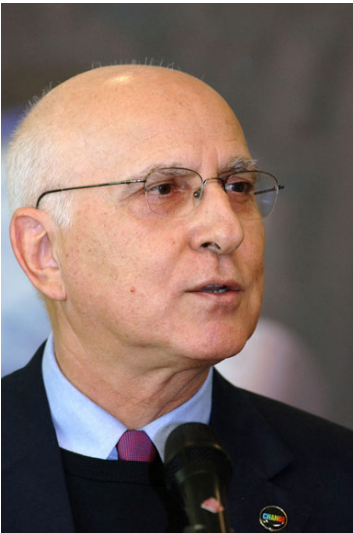
Biosafety and Biotechnology Regulatory Services

Status – Failure to approve

❑ Decision on BT11 and BT1507



GMO Panel considers that questions raised by the Member States are addressed and that these maize events will not have an adverse effect on human and animal health or the environment in the context of its proposed use.



Proposal Commissioner Dimas:

- Since the publication of EFSA's opinion, several scientific studies have been published confirming that the issue of adverse effects of maize expressing the Bt toxin on non-target organisms is still debated within the scientific community.
- These maize lines should not be approved for placing on the market for cultivation in the Community.

Status – Confusing decisions

□ 6 December 2007



"Saatgut des Genmais MON810 darf wieder vertrieben werden "

Germany allows cultivation of MON810 again after temporary suspension



" OGM: gel a minima sur les OGM en attendant une loi début février "

France freezes use of GM corn until new law.

What will trigger change?

- Biotechnology for Developing countries?
- Biotechnology with consumer advantage?
- Biotechnology for non-food applications?
- Biotechnology with improved safety profile?

International trade

- ❑ WTO Dispute - Complaints by the United States (WT/DS291), Canada (WT/DS292) and Argentina (WT/DS293).
 - ❖ the “de facto” EC moratorium on approvals of biotech products
 - ❖ various product-specific EC measures affecting the approval of specific biotech products
 - ❖ various EC member State safeguard measures prohibiting the import and/or marketing of specific biotech products

The “reasonable period of time” expired on 21 November 2007.

Reaction of researchers



Dear Commissioner Dimas,

The European Federation of Biotechnology is very concerned to read about your draft decisions to reject two Bt maize product submissions based on discredited scientific arguments that have not been reviewed by your own independent scientific body, the European Food Safety Authority.

Reaction of agro-business



'Monsieur le President, vous avez cédé aux marchands de peur et de mensonges.'

Mister President, you have conceded to distributors of fear and lies.

Press release on the indication by Pres. Sarkozy of suspension of GM variety sales in France.

Competitive agriculture

❑ DG Agriculture Report "Economic Impact Of Unapproved GMOs On EU Feed Imports And Livestock Production"

- ❖ Asynchronous authorizations of GMOs have already occurred and are likely to become more frequent and to affect a greater range of crops in the future.
- ❖ The presence of EU non-approved GMOs has already affected imports of **maize feed products** (corn gluten feed and distillers dried grain) with, however, limited overall economic implications for EU livestock production (impact limited to some Member States).
- ❖ The EU imports vast volumes of **soybeans and soybean meal** feed products. Only 10-20% of imports could be replaced by substitutes.

Competitive agriculture

- ❑ **DG Agriculture Report "Economic Impact Of Unapproved GMOs On EU Feed Imports And Livestock Production"**
 - ❖ Impact of a two-year import interruption
 - Small if EU-non approved GM soybeans only cultivated in the USA.
 - Severe if also cultivated in Argentina and Brazil,, cutting EU feed supply (in soybean meal equivalent) by 25.7 million t, with feed expenditure rising by more than 600% respectively.
 - ❖ The short-term impacts in the pig meat and poultry sectors would be a substantial reduction in production, exports and consumption, and a very significant increase in imports. For beef meat, production would be less affected, but exports would be significantly reduced (by 100% in the worst case scenario).

Competitive agriculture

❑ **DG Agriculture Report "Economic Impact Of Unapproved GMOs On EU Feed Imports And Livestock Production"**

- ❖ Given that EU livestock production accounts for about 40% of the total value of agricultural production a loss in competitiveness of the EU livestock sector, would have important implications for agricultural incomes and employment, with considerable knock-on effects in the upstream and downstream industries, and significant increases in meat prices for the consumer.

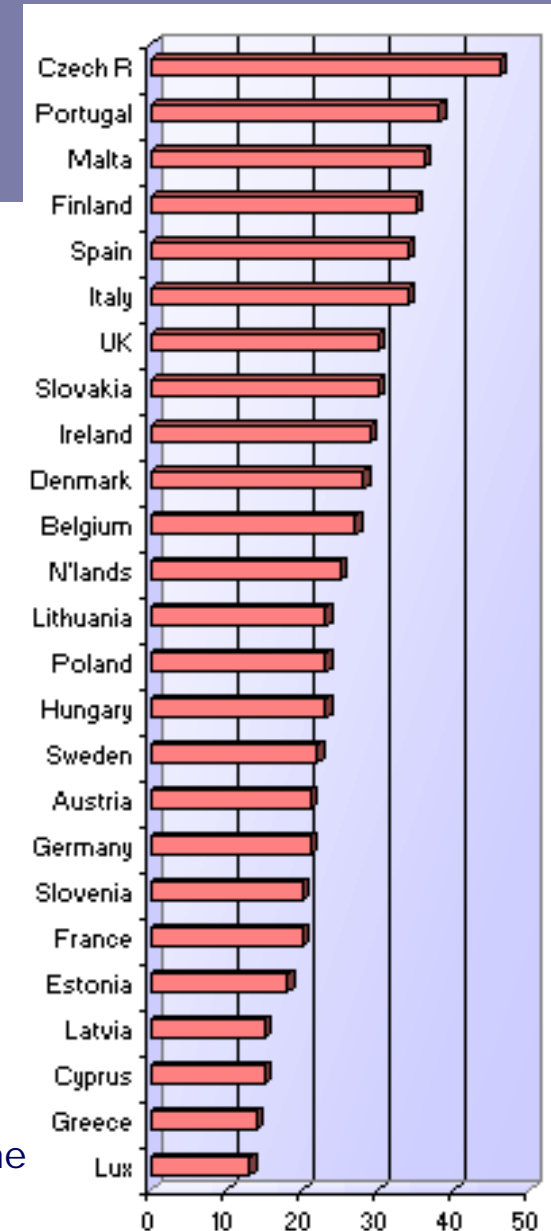
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir/gmo/economic_impactGMOs_en.pdf

Consumer acceptance

□ Eurobarometer 2006

- ❖ Regarding GM foods on the other hand, most Europeans remain sceptical. Unconvinced of the technology's benefits, most respondents expressed moral objections and concerns about potential risks.
- ❖ Most Europeans would buy GM food if they were considered healthier and used less pesticides. But authorization from the EU and lower prices don't appear to be enough to get Europeans to choose GM.

Figure: Support for GM foods (percent) in EU Member States. The EU-wide average is 27 percent.



Consumer acceptance

□ Nature Biotechnology 2007

- ❖ Scientists from New Zealand investigated consumer attitudes towards genetically modified foods locally and in several European countries.
- ❖ The scientists confronted consumers with a concrete buying situation, in which fresh fruits were offered at a roadside fruit stall. The fruits were categorized as biological, conventional and “spray-free genetically modified”.
- ❖ The acceptance of GM foods is quite significant when they are cheaper than organic or conventionally produced foods and/or a clear environmental benefit was indicated.

Thank you for your attention!

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Second Decade of Crop Biotechnology

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