



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 02 MAY 2012  
(Section Genetically modified Food & Feed)**

Chair: Sabine Pelsser

All Member States were represented.

**A.1 Ruling of the European Court of Justice on the regulatory status of genetically modified pollen in honey.**

The Commission's representative explained that no new development has arisen since the last meeting of this committee. The Commission is still shaping its position on the need to clarify the Honey Directive.

Some Member States stressed that there is an urgency to find a sustainable solution on this file.

**A.2 Update on the RASFF notifications.**

The Commission's representative outlined the number and type of notifications which had been received through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed and highlighted that the majority of these continued to concern rice products originating from China. The Commission also highlighted a number of alerts which had been notified concerning Genetically Modified (GM) papaya imported from Thailand. It was stressed that the Thai authorities had already responded to the Commission detailing the action that been taken, and in particular that all affected plots had been destroyed and that increased surveillance would be implemented.

The Commission's representative indicated that in view of the forthcoming review of Decision (EU) 2011/884, Committee members were invited to submit comments on their experience with the implementation of this Decision, since its adoption in January 2012. Committee members who requested the floor indicated that they had experienced cost issues with sampling procedure outlined in Annex II of the Decision and other Members requested that the list of products detailed in Annex I be reviewed. The Commission stated that the results submitted by Member States and the comments submitted on experiences to date would be the

subject of discussion at the June meeting.

**B.1 Draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON87701xMON89788 (MON-877Ø1-2xMON-89788-1) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.**

The draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON87701xMON89788 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed was presented and submitted to the Committee for an opinion.

The following reasons were mentioned by Member States for not supporting the draft Decision:

- molecular characterization, compositional analysis and toxicological studies are not considered as satisfactory;
- no sufficient study and data for the comparative analysis between the GM soybean and its counterpart;
- labelling and traceability methods not satisfactory due to hybrid character of the GMO;
- the conclusion of the risk assessment is not considered as fully satisfactory;
- lack of harmonisation between the legal framework of the herbicide regulation and GMO regulation;
- the Regulation on GM food and feed is not considered as the right legal basis to authorise products other than food and feed containing and consisting of GMOs;
- lack of internal agreement at national level on the approach to be taken;
- negative public opinion and perception to GMO;
- political reasons.

The Chair indicated that the Commission would be invited to submit a proposal to the Appeal Committee in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

*Declaration from the Austrian delegation*

*"Austria objects the placing on the market of genetically modified soybean MON87701xMON89788 (MON-877Ø1-2xMON-89788-1) due to the following reasons:*

- a. The risk assessment which has been carried out is not suitable to give a scientific proof for the safety of this product:*

*This concerns in particular*

- *molecular characterisation (lack of quality to proof genetic stability),*
- *conclusions of compositional analysis have to be scrutinized*
- *toxicological assessment of the stacked event for potential interactions between Cry1Ac and CP4 EPSPS is missing*
- *lacks of environmental monitoring plan are obvious*

*b. As long as no official (guidance) document on the interpretation of detection results of the described methods for stacked events are available, no approval for placing on the market of this product should be given.*

*c. From the Austrian point of view, products others than food and feed containing or consisting of soybean MON87701xMON89788 are not within the scope of EU-Regulation 1829/2003 but under Directive 2001/18/EC."*

**Vote taken:** No opinion (149 votes in favour, 87 votes against, 109 abstentions)

**C.1 Draft Commission Implementing Regulation on implementing rules concerning applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations No (EC) 641/2004 and (EC) No 1981/2006.**

A presentation was provided by the Commission of the revised version of the document based on the comments received from the Member States and a detailed discussion took place. Some Member States committed to send further comments to the Commission. A working group meeting dedicated fully to the draft Commission Implementing Regulation on implementing rules concerning applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed was announced to take place in June 2012.

**M.1 LLP Food**

The Commission's representative indicated that the information supplied by Stakeholders concerning the impact of Regulation (EU) 619/2011 on the food and feed chain was still being reviewed, and that a decision on a possible review would be taken in the coming months.

**M.2 GM free**

The Commission's representative explained that all Member States will receive soon a basic questionnaire and that only some Member States, having adopted or being in the process of adopting GM free schemes will receive a specific

questionnaire.

### **M.3 MIR162 maize**

A representative from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) explained that the adoption of the scientific opinion on genetically modified maize MIR162 is foreseen for the next GMO Plenary meeting in May.