

1999 Erklæringer om grundbetingelser for GMO-håndtering

Statement by the Danish, Greek, French, Italian and Luxembourg delegations concerning the suspension of new GMO authorisations

"The Governments of the following Member States (Denmark, Greece, France, Italy and Luxembourg), in exercising the powers vested in them regarding the growing and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), given the need to put in place a tighter, more transparent framework, in particular for risk assessment, having regard to the specifics of European ecosystems, monitoring and labelling, given the need to restore public and market confidence, point to the importance of the Commission submitting without delay full draft rules ensuring labelling and traceability of GMOs and GMO-derived products and state that, pending the adoption of such rules, in accordance with preventive and precautionary principles, they will take steps to have any new authorisations for growing and placing on the market suspended."

Statement by the Austrian, Belgian, Finnish, German, Netherlands, Spanish and Swedish delegations

"Being aware of the increasing public concern about the potential risks to health and environment linked to the release and the placing on the market of GMOs, the abovementioned delegations

- stress the need to implement a more transparent and strict framework concerning critical issues such as risk assessment taking into account the specificity of European ecosystems, monitoring and labelling as well as the need to restore the trust of public opinion and of the market;
- reaffirm their intention to work for a rapid finalisation of the legislative process concerning the proposal for an amendment of Directive 90/220/EEC and invite the European Parliament to join the Council and the Commission in their intention so that the legislative process can be rapidly finalised.

Against this background the Governments of these Member States, having regard to the precautionary principle set out in Article 174(2) of the Treaty, intend:

- to take a thoroughly precautionary approach in dealing with notifications and authorisations for the placing on the market of GMOs,
- not to authorise the placing on the market of any GMOs until it is demonstrated that there is no adverse effect on the environment and human health, and
- to the extent legally possible to apply immediately the principles, especially regarding traceability and labelling, laid down in the political agreement for a revision of Directive 90/220/EEC reached by the Council on 24/25 June 1999.

Therefore, these delegations invite the Commission as a matter of urgency to make a proposal for effective implementation of the provisions regarding labelling and traceability of GMOs through the comitology procedure provided for in Directive 90/220/EEC.

These delegations welcome the intention of the Commission in the context of the forthcoming white paper on liability to assess the question of liability for environmental damage linked to the deliberate release and placing on the market of GMOs. These delegations take note of the possibility for Member States to introduce national measures in conformity with the new provisions laid down in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of Article 95 of the EC Treaty."