



Electronic GMO bulletin Eco-sense December 2008

GMO Legislation in Republic of Macedonia

In 2007 the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the National Program for Adoption of the *Acquis Communautaire* (NPAA).

The revised and upgraded NPAA 2008 was approved by the Government of Republic of Macedonia on 4th of March 2008. Government also approved a separate plan - Measures and Actions for implementation of the benchmarks (the key priorities of the Accession Partnership) and it was endorsed by the Council for Euro-integration of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia.

The revision of the NPAA was focused on further analysis of the *Acquis communitary* and relations to the national legislation, using the experience of the countries that underwent the screening process.

Beside the existing frame laws, Government of Republic of Macedonia should adopt all additional bylaws in accordance with determined NPAA time frame.

According to the NPAA draft matrix, Law on Genetically Modified Organisms should be adopted in the period of 30.08.2007 to 31.03.2008. The Law was adopted in March 2008.

In the upcoming period, on the basis of this law, the bylaws for regulation of deliberate release of GMOs into environment should be prepared and adopted. The final transposing is planned till the end of 2010.

This list of legal acts is revised and the draft matrix was prepared for every year.

According to the draft matrix till the end of 2008 two bylaws should be adopted:

- Decree on the establishment of a Commission for GMO management, deadline to 30.09.2008
- Decision on the establishment of a Scientific committee for GMO, deadline to 30.09.2008

According to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Republic of Macedonia, these two bylaws are already prepared and submitted to the Government of Republic of Macedonia. Their adoption and enforcement is expected very soon.

For more information: www.ekovest.com.mk

Food and Democracy 2009

The 5th European Conference on GMO-free Regions will be held under the heading "Food & Democracy" and will take place in Lucerne (Switzerland) on April 24th and 25th, 2009. From now on you can register for the conference and book a hotel.

www.foodanddemocracy.org

EU approves genetically modified soybean for import

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union has authorized imports of a genetically modified (GM) soybean type for sale across its 27 national markets for the next 10 years, the European Commission said on Thursday. Developed and marketed by Monsanto, the soybean is destined to be imported for use in food and animal feed, not for growing. It is a second-generation GM product known by its code number MON 89788 and commercially as Roundup Ready2Yield. The soybean is designed to resist glyphosate Roundup Ready herbicides and produce increased yields for farmers. Read more at:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE4B33GO20081204>



Austrian ministry links GM corn to infertility

Consumption of genetically modified corn may lead to infertility, according to a new study commissioned by the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, and carried out by Veterinary University Vienna. Results from a long-term feeding study with mice were interpreted as showing that consumption of a genetically modified corn developed by Monsanto (NK603 x MON810) led to lower fertility and body weight. The report was released on 11th November by the Austrian Ministry of Health, Family and Youth, which managed the study. To read the full report, click at: <http://www.foodnavigator.com/Science-Nutrition/Austrian-ministry-links-GM-corn-to-infertility>

New scientific study shows the negative effects of GM food

This new article from CRIIGEN shows that Roundup residues found in GM food and feed can cause cell damage and even death -- even at very low levels. The authors say that their research "... points to undesirable effects which are currently masked or hidden from scientific scrutiny." We have evaluated the toxicity of four glyphosate (G)-based herbicides in Roundup (R) formulations, from 10⁵ times dilutions, on three different human cell types.

This dilution level is far below agricultural recommendations and corresponds to low levels of residues in food or feed. All R formulations cause total cell death within 24 h, through an inhibition of the mitochondrial succinate dehydrogenase activity, and necrosis, by release of cytosolic adenylate kinase measuring membrane damage. They also induce apoptosis via activation of enzymatic caspases 3/7 activity. Full text can be found at: http://www.criigen.org/press-release_Rup_0507.pdf

Genetic engineering is a new technology, involving the manipulation of genes.

Scientists can transfer genes from one species to other non-related species. This is possible because of the universal "gene language" – the genetic code.



What are genetically modified organisms?

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are organisms in which genetic material is changed in a way that doesn't occur naturally with process of reproduction and/or natural recombination, including the microorganisms



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