

PRO LEBEN

AntiGEN Technik Plattform Österreich

www.proleben.at

donating account: BIC: KSPKAT2K /
IBAN: AT73207060000143800 / AUSTRIA

Dear Member of the European Parliament!

We are writing to you today with the sole request that you help prevent the introduction of genetic engineering in European agriculture. Nobody wants to eat genetically-modified food. According to surveys, 90 % of the population reject foodstuffs developed in the laboratory. You, as a representative of the people of Europe, therefore speak for a huge majority when you oppose the use of genetic engineering in agriculture. You can become a **hero**, or a **perpetrator** responsible for contaminating Europe through genetic engineering. It is probably the most far-reaching decision you will make in your life. What is at stake is the irreversible annihilation of older, self-regenerating agricultural plant varieties in favour of an artificially invented laboratory food which is forced upon us. We have to protect agriculture against such interference.

The contamination of the EU through genetically-modified plants is equivalent to poisoning a well. We are exchanging healthy food for highly risky laboratory constructs contaminated with Bt toxin and glyphosate. Open field trials must be prevented because the genetically-modified plants will spread across the whole land by themselves, like an infectious disease, once we have begun planting them. Unfortunately, we cannot try planting GM crops in the open because there is no way back.

In summary, it can be said that genetically-modified plants cannot be used for food purposes because they cause sickness and death in animals and reduced harvests, and the use of pesticide sprays in the USA is steadily increasing. (see below - Engdahl)

The charging of licence fees to farmers who have never planted GM crops, but onto whose farms the genetically-modified plants were carried by birds, bees, wind and pollen is the height of injustice (see court judgment of 28 August 2003, Supreme Court of Canada). Mr. P. Schmeißer was ordered to surrender all of his own seeds and pay the genetic engineering company's court costs of 153,000 dollars. Permitting genetic engineering in agriculture in Europe means: delivering Europe into the bondage of the multinationals and losing forever the outstanding competitive advantage of "GM-free food from Europe".

A testing procedure for GM crops similar to that required for medicaments must be made mandatory before allowing genetically-modified crops to be planted, because they contain Bt toxin, antibiotic-resistant genes, protein of alien origin etc. We are not talking about a medication developed for a small number of sick people which in case of doubt can be recalled, but foodstuffs which are supposed to be eaten by 450 million people, and living plants which can no longer be recalled. Once we contaminate nature with these, we lose control over the most vital consumer good, our own food supply. Do you really believe that "substantial equivalence", combined with a 4-week digestion trial, can provide a sufficient safeguard against harm caused by genetic engineering ?

In the publication by F. W. Engdahl, "Zeit Fragen" No. 22 of 7.6.2004, he writes, among other things:

***Animal trials involving genetically-modified poultry feed resulted in a doubling of mortality rates. Rats developed intestinal disorders through genetically-modified potatoes and tomatoes. r-bGH (growth hormone used in cattle) is related to breast cancer in humans. The genetic contamination of seeds will mean the end of conventional agriculture and all organic farming within a few years, see USA. "Roundup", produced by the company Monsanto, is so powerful that it destroys everything in a conventional grain field, including the cereal crop, the bees and butterflies.**

Genetically-modified plants have produced interferon alpha, which is said to trigger dementia. The planting of genetically-modified cotton in India led to harvest losses of up to 100 %*

We can mail you a copy of this, together with other publications and studies.

In the case of the first GM farmer in Germany, Gottfried Glöckner, all 60 cows gradually became seriously ill, many died, and many calves were deformed. Ears between the shoulders, blood instead of colostrum milk, unnatural holes in the abdomen and udder where the gland tissue had broken through to the surface.

Send the scientists there. Many years after GM trials, this farmer's fields are still so contaminated with Bt toxin that any cow which grazes there becomes ill within days.

For all these reasons, we would like to ask you to raise the motion that the current directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 12. 3. 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically-modified organisms be withdrawn without replacement.

Important elements were not taken into consideration during the course of the preliminary examination procedure, which has led to the following shortcomings:

The aforementioned directive breaches constitutional and human rights, because it leads to a material (partial) expropriation which conflicts with the European Convention on Human Rights and the constitutions of the member states. Furthermore, the directive does not provide for either a balancing of legally protected interests or provisions for compensation, which constitutes an infringement of constitutional and human rights.

The plaintiff's property ownership, which has to be protected according to the constitutional tradition of the Community, and their right to choose as a consumer are thereby systematically restricted, without any balancing of legally protected interests, without exception and without corresponding provision for compensation - that is to say in a grossly unconstitutional manner. At the same time the directive conflicts with EC Council regulation 2092/91 on organic foodstuffs and the directive 2002/53 on a common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species, directive 2002/55 on the marketing of vegetable seeds, directive 2002/54 on the marketing of beet seeds, directive 2202/56 on the marketing of seed potatoes, directive 2202/57 on the marketing of seeds of oil and fibre plants and regulation 1467/94 on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture, and fails to provide for a standardised procedure for examining environmental compatibility which would be suitable for the purpose of risk assessment.

Neither the necessary basis for assessing effects and measures for protecting organic and GM-free conventional agriculture nor the licensing criteria for assessing the coexistence of genetically pure crops and neighbouring transgenic crops have been set forth correctly, nor has substantial equivalence been adequately weighed against a risk assessment. According to current scientific standards, the trials on which the aforementioned directive is based are inadequate and an assessment of the risks is not possible.

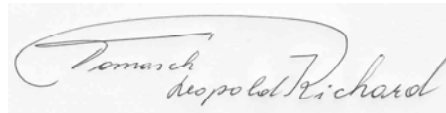
Speak for those whose voice cannot be heard in Brussels and ensure that future generations too enjoy a GM-free environment and foods which represent the basis for a healthy population!

Latest news:

Bayer have discontinued all GM trials in India, Syngenta have done the same in Europe. The intelligent thing would be not to start these in Europe to begin with.



Dipl. Ing. Volker HELLDORFF
helldorff@proleben.at



Richard Leopold TOMASCH
rileto@proleben.at



