



# ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΟΛΟΓΙΚΩΝ ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΕΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

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## Report on Federation's GMOs campaign

One of the main activities of the Federation is to raise public awareness regarding the dangers that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) pose to human health and the environment. The Federation aims at declaring the whole of Cyprus as a GMOs and products-free zone. A group of volunteers under the auspices of the Federation works consistently towards this aim, by organizing various events and campaigns:

1. Publication of a consumers guide on GMOs, organic and natural agriculture. Two lists of food products that contain GMOs are presented in the publication.
2. Organisation of two Pancyprian Conferences on GMOs, with speakers from Cyprus and Greece
3. Lectures to schools and various groups
4. Participation of members of the Federation in Conferences and other events related to GMOs in Cyprus and overseas
5. Participation in TV and radio programmes
6. Articles in newspapers and magazines
7. A workshop was organized for Mayors, and other local authority's officials in order to promote the idea of declaration by the local authorities GMO free zones, as the example of the other EU member states. The following activities took place in relation to this particular campaign:
  - Meetings with all 33 Mayors of Cyprus
  - Meetings with the head of the Cyprus Union of Municipalities
  - Meetings with the head of the Cyprus Union of Communities
  - Organisation of a workshop on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2005 presenting the issue of GMO free zones to the Local Authorities. The workshop was addressed by the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment and the President of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment. Two speakers from Greece were invited to share their experience at the workshop. A large number of participants (more than a hundred) attended the workshop.
  - Lectures to Municipalities and villages
  - Press Conference
  - Participation in TV and radio programs
  - Articles in newspapers

The Municipalities of Larnaka, Strovolos, Engomi and Yermasogeia have been declared as GMO free zones. The Municipalities of Latsia and Ayios Athanasios are also to be declared as GMO free zones soon. Blocks of

Communities have also expressed their interest in declaring their areas to GMO free zones.

8. Meetings with the President of the Republic, Ministers, MPs, EMPs, public Officials
9. Participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Agrifair, in order to sensitize farmers about the risk of cultivating GM plants and the dangers of coexistence of conventional, organic and gm farming
10. Participation in a specialized exhibition cold "Body, Mind and Spirit" aiming for public awareness
11. Preparation of a leaflet on GMOs to be disseminated in schools