

Wallonien (Belgien)

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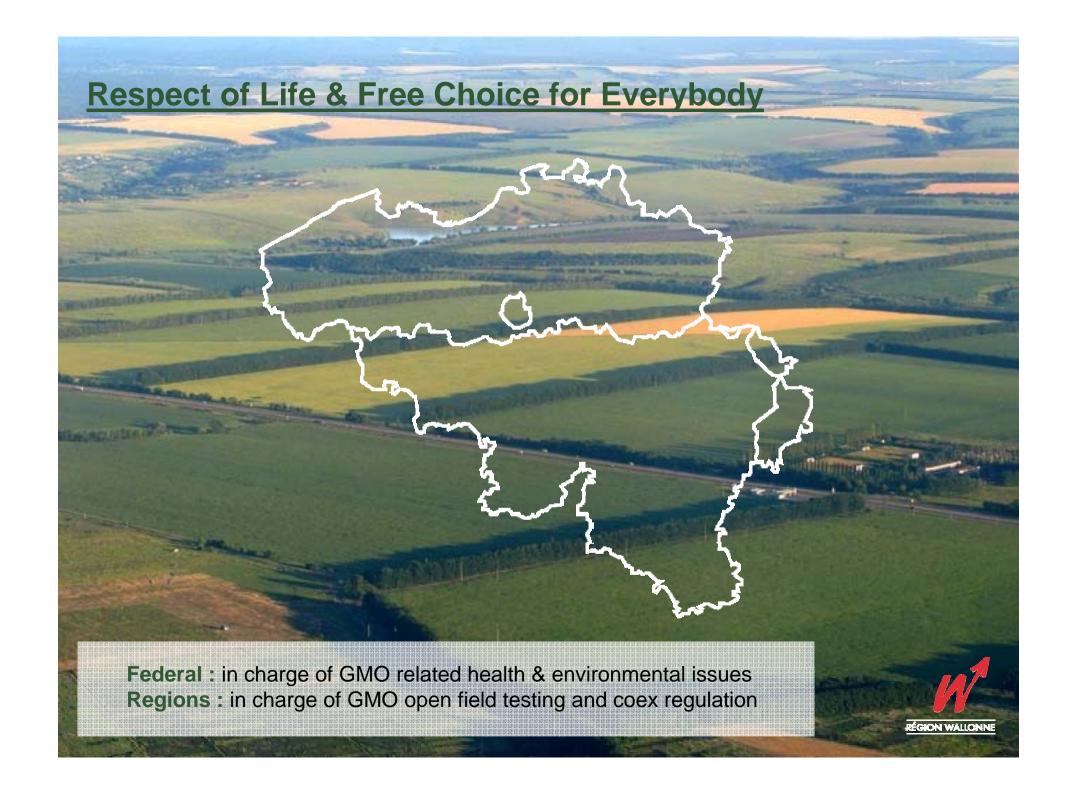






Benoît Lutgen, Minister of Agriculture, Environment, Tourism and Rurality «I warmly thank you all for your long term commitment and initiatives around agro-GMO's in Europe. The debate is tough and there is still a long way to go. But be sure that together, there is little we cannot achieve.»





Respect of Life & Free Choice for Everybody

Some facts

> EU

- the paradox of the European Union
- one of the strongest regulation on GMO in the world
- rather weak work processes (particularly on scientific level)
- strong corporate lobbying at Commission level (pro-GMO)
- no common vision at Member State level

> BE

- Presence of GMO, even not authorized ones, in many everyday products sold in supermarkets (up to 20% of tested sample-TA2009)
- Non GMO labelling is currently not allowed (FASFC and FAE)
- Up to now, priority given to agrobusiness & intensive agriculture & gentech development on Federal level and in North of country
- -'Respect of life and free choice for everybody' is not yet reality





Wallonia

- > Agriculture: 50% of territory, < 1% of active population, rather small areas/family oriented farms, fast growing bio agriculture
- > Strong support of bio farming and short distribution circuits
- > No use of GMO in open fields up to now
- > Regulation on coexistence of type of cultures, aim: respect & free choice, consumers-farmers-retail-community





Wallonia

- > Regulation on Coexistence of type of cultures
- texts available on Moniteur.be or Europa.eu
- political decision, no consensus
- strong starting rules for candidate GMO farmers to decrease dissemination
- quick financial compensation process in case of contamination
- easy set-up of GMO-free areas
- heavy fines for farmers/producers who do not respect the regulation
- full info on GMO fields on the internet
 - > Endorsement of the Charter of Florence



