

Cyprus Communities Union

Declaration

In respect of the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Examining and considering the issue of the Genetically Modified Organisms, the Cyprus Communities Union has decided that it:

- Expresses its concern about the potential consequences of the Genetically Modified Organisms on human health, the environment, the agriculture and the country's economy, especially after the publication of related research findings internationally.
- Appeals to the Precautionary Principle, promoted by the European Union, based on which preventive measures are to be taken where there are sound indications for harm to the environment and health.
- Expresses its strong worries for the fact that the European Union opened its doors to GMOs in human and animal food, without labeling in the cases of up to 0,9% GMO content and for its intention to suppress zero tolerance in seeds contamination with gm seeds.
- Recognizes that it is impossible to cultivate GMOs in Cyprus and at the same time avoid the contamination of wild or cultivated species, because of the multi-splitting of agricultural land, small agricultural plots and small ownerships and generally because of the limited cultivated land of the island.
- Is certain that co-existence of GMOs with conventional, organic and traditional cultivations in our country is impossible.
- Knows that when GMOs are released into the environment, their withdrawal or retraction is impossible, since they are living organisms, and that the cost of cleaning the fields cultivated with GMOs is extremely high, and also that it requires many years of not using these fields before they can be cultivated again with natural / normal crops.
- Defends the rights of the producers of agricultural products to produce natural products cultivated with conventional or/and organic methods, without the danger of contamination of their crops by GMOs and endangering not selling their products.
- Defends the rights of the cultivators to maintain the selling price of their products and agricultural plots which endangers to decrease in the case of contamination by GMOs.
- Asserts the rights of the citizens who are against the use of products (especially food) containing or consisting of GMOs.
- Refuses to bequeath to the next generations genetically modified flora and fauna, which will never be able to recover and return to its natural state.
- Supports the Cyprus Government in its negative position (stand) against GMOs and invites it to use all the means in its disposal for the forbiddance of the release of GMOs in our little island.
- Calls upon all the Community Councils to declare the territories under their jurisdiction as GMO free zones, giving emphasis to the protection of agriculture and especially of traditional and organic cultivations and apiculture.
- Binds itself to proceed with all the necessary actions for the recognition of this decision.

- Assigns to its president the acknowledgement of the above declaration to the following recipients:
 - All the Community Councils
 - President of the Cyprus Republic
 - President of the House of Parliament
 - Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment
 - Minister of Commerce, Tourism and Industry
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs
 - Minister of Internal Affairs
 - Minister of Health
 - President of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment
 - President of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture
 - MPs
 - President of the European Parliament
 - President of the European Commission
 - Commissioner on Health and Consumers
 - Commissioner on Agriculture
 - Commissioner on the Environment
 - Committee on Agriculture of the European Parliament
 - Committee on the Environment of the European Parliament
 - Cypriot EMPs
 - Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organizations of Cyprus
 - European Environmental NGOs
 - Media

