

# **Union of Municipalities of Cyprus**

## **Declaration on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**

The Executive Committee of the Union of Municipalities of Cyprus has issued the Declaration below on the 22 June 2006.

The Union,

1. Expresses its worries about the uncertainties regarding the potential effects of GMOs on human health, the environment, agriculture and the economy of the country.
2. Considers uncertain the possibility to cultivate GMOs in Cyprus without contaminating wild and cultivated species, due to the small size of the agricultural plots and the limited agricultural land in the island.
3. Highlights that once GMOs are released into the environment it is extremely difficult to withdraw or/and recall them, or/and it is extremely costly to clean the fields that have been cultivated with GMOs, and that for many years those fields will have to remain unexploited.
4. Supports the right of the farmers to produce natural products cultivated either in conventional, traditional or organic way, without their cultivations being threatened by genetic contamination.
5. Affirms that will support the efforts of the Cyprus Government for the right handling of this issue in a small island like Cyprus.
6. Suggests to the Municipal Councils to inform their citizens about this important issue and to take such decisions which will promote the prevention of cultivation or spreading GMOs in Cyprus.