

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, may I thank our organizers for arranging this conference?

For the third time we are together to discuss and find out how to exclude the growing of genetically modified crops in our regional areas.

It gives me a great pleasure to be here today and to speak about latest Polish experiences connected with GMO issue.

In Poland discussion about GMO goes to the heart of the debate of the nature of European Union and calls for a proper balance between free market economy and the European model of agriculture.

There is no doubt that European law on GMO is created in the close atmosphere of arising conflict of interest.

From one side the US-led World Trade Organization stakeholders with giant transgenic corporations and industries on the head, demanding unlimited application of their genetic gadgets.

On the other side growing European communities and consumers movements who calls for full implementation of precautionary principle with an exact demonstration of the proof that GMOs do **not** involve **any** risks for health or environment.

I have to emphasize that the above dispute take place in the situation when scientific knowledge is insufficient for a full a priori safety statement to be made.

The unpolluted biodiversity of Poland is exceptionally rich and we do not want to loose it. It is therefore vitally important that we could develop traditional production of high quality agriculture products that may become destroyed by widespread contamination of GM crops.

Therefore, from our Polish perspective, it seems at least strange when European Commission does not take the arbitrary position in that conflict.

Insisting instead to provide additional so-called “coexistence” measures for cultivation of GMO varieties, Commission is visibly keeping the position of a pro GMO party.

That is why, in Poland all regional authorities, supported by numerous NGO's gathered that The Government develop adequate measures within the State law.

I have to remain that during 2005 all of the sixteen Polish voievodships (self governed regions) adopted resolutions of the willingness to become a GMO free zones.

As a result The Polish Government adopted in April 2006 so called “ FRAME POSITION OF POLAND ON GMO “

This documents lays down clearly that due to numerous uncertainties surrounding the long term safety of GM foods and because of a risks to human and animal health, as well as to the environment caused by invasive and robust nature of GM crops, Poland strives to be a GMO free country.

Furthermore, “ due to inaccurate European law legal rules, which does not reflects concern at phenomenon and exceptional Polish biodiversity case - Government of Poland is against marketing of the products, which are authorized basing on 2001/18Directive”

Proceeding in compliance with the above mentioned “ Frame Position” the Polish Government presented and Parliament has ratified the following normative acts:

First one – The Seed Production Act - adopted on 27 April 2006 introducing ban on the genetically modified seeds trade in Poland and totally forbidding the inclusion of genetically modified seeds in the national plant record.

Second one: The Animal Feed Act - adopted on 22 July 2006 with its Art 15 point 4 that stipulates: “ Forbidden is production, introduction to the market and turnover as well as application in animal nutrition of genetically modified feeds and genetically modified organisms for feed’s use.” It has to be pointed out, that because of necessity to adjust accordingly the existing animal feed sector, which is now dominated by GM soy suppliers (app 2 mln tons per year) this regulation is adopted with 2 years time of *vacatio legis*.

In the mean time another basic regulation - The GMO Law, is a subject of wide consultation and will be presented for Parliamentary works very soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced, that Polish GMO case, with precedent created by the above mentioned regulations will greatly assist and encourage other countries and regions. We have to press European legislation services and authorities to change the existing law, giving full rights both the countries and regions to ban the GMOs.

Thank you.