

## **WITHOUT SOLIDARITY THERE WILL BE NO GMO FREE EUROPE -- CALL FOR A NEW MORATORIUM ON GMOs.**

\* The International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside – ICPPC, was established in November 2000 with the support of 41 organizations from 18 countries.

### **POLAND - The situation in June 2004:**

\* Accession to the EU (1st May 2004) opened a wider door for GMOs on the Polish market and fields.

\* Poland could easily become a victim of corporations producing GMOs because:

- Polish consumers and farmers are largely unaware of the GMO threats.
- The media is not reporting issues surrounding GMOs problems.
- The Polish government has not been willing to block GMOs.

**The campaign GMO FREE ZONES IN POLAND started in June 2004. At the same time we joined to the GMO FREE EUROPE campaign**

**\* Campaign „Stop GMO’s in Poland” -- [www.gmo.icppc.pl](http://www.gmo.icppc.pl)**

Inspiring for us was:

- The movement in Western Europe creating GMO free zones (Austria 8 from 9 regions, 80% of Italy, all prefectures in Greece, ext)
- Network of GMO Free Regions.

Taking into account that the situation was very urgent we decided first of all **to target authorities on the level of regions / provinces.**

We have 16 regions (provinces) in Poland, and over 38 million people.

POLAND: area: 312.685 km<sup>2</sup>, Population: 38,6 mln, 16 provinces

We organized a number of trainings and conferences exposing GMO threats and promoting, as a solution, GMO free zones in conjunction with traditional and organic agriculture.

ICPPC has been operating this campaign on a very minimum budget. We:

- rely on voluntary work,
- involve members of local governments,
- establish good contacts with the leaders in most regions.

**We help local people to feel this is their region and future and that is why they have to fight.**

The first community which declared itself as a GMO Free Zone was Chmielnik in September 2004.

This was a result of our long term cooperation with Mr Kazimierz Jaworski, a mayor of this community, who later became a Senator of Poland.

On the same day the first group of farmers from Stryszow region, where ICPPC has its headquarters, declared their farms “GMO Free”

On 9th of November, during the conference „Make Malopolska a GMO Free Zone” organized by ICPPC in Krakow **ICPPC released an APPEAL** to the Malopolska authorities.

During two weeks, ICPPC collected support for the Appeal from around 1000 individuals and organizations.

As a result of this lobbying, in November 2004 the Regional Assembly of Malopolska signed a resolution to declare itself a GMO free zone.

Both regions are covered by small, traditional family farms, rich in natural and cultural biodiversity.

The next step was a big jump: to the region WIELKOPOLSKA with big farms, including industrial farms from American multinational corporation Smithfield. But we also succeeded there and in the other regions.

**So after one and half years, in January 2006 we have 15 GMO Free regions (provinces) which cover over 96% of Poland representing more than 90% of the population. Only 1 more Province to go!!**

Strong pressure from the regions and NGOs resulted in the Polish government issuing a national ban for GMO maize seeds on 21 March 2005.

We need your support to pressure the EC to accept this ban!!

UNFORTUNATELY Polish provinces/regions and local authorities, in spite of the fact that they represent the local population, in common with many other European GMO free zones, are not empowered to make laws to stop GMOs in their regions

So consequently, growing pressure is needed to persuade national governments and the EU to officially recognize the right of countries and regions to take a precautionary approach to all types of GMOs.

**We don't believe in any possibility of co-existence between GM and non GM plants. Genetic pollution does not respect arbitrary boundaries.**

**To counteract the irreversible consequences of introducing GMO's in Europe ICPPC has proposed calling for a new TEN YEARS MORATORIUM ON ALL GMO'S**

The call for a MORATORIUM was launched in June 2005 at the international conference „GMO, CAP, Biodiversity - European Solidarity” in the European Parliament

It is presently supported by 141 Polish and international organisations and VIPs.

**We believe that a new MORATORIUM is the right basis for creating solidarity between all those actively involved in the fight against GMO's.**

**We therefore extend our call for you to join this campaign.**

**!!!!!! If you support this action, please send us a letter (fax: 0048 33 8797114, e-mail: [biuro@icppc.pl](mailto:biuro@icppc.pl)) stating:**

**"I/we support a ten year moratorium against all GMO's in the European Union" including your name/organization, position, signature and address.**

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