



- **GM crops and the EU livestock industry**

**Are EU GMO rules putting the sector at risk?**



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

# GM crops and the EU livestock industry

- **78% of plant proteins imported to EU, most used for animal feed**
- **The hike in animal feed prices (prior to the financial crisis) caused difficulties for the EU livestock sector**
- **Calls were made**
  - for the EU to drop its “zero tolerance” rules
    - “Zero tolerance is the EU’s policy whereby any imports that are found to be contaminated, even with trace amounts, by a GMO that has not been approved in the European Union cannot enter the EU
  - for the EU to stop “asynchronous approvals”
    - This term is used to define how the EU approves GMOs more slowly than the US



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

## GM crops and the EU livestock industry

- **Price increase was a global not EU phenomenon. It is also observed in the US which has approved and commercialised more GMOs than in any other country**
- **“Asynchronous” approvals can only be a problem if the EU is the slowest in the world**
  - EU takes an average of 2.5 years to approve new GMOs
  - Argentina takes an average of 3 years
  - Brazil takes an average of 3-5 years
  - It is the US that is different from the rest as it takes 15 months and virtually no safety assessment



- **Asynchronous” and “zero tolerance” can only be a problem if key exporter countries to the EU are marketing GM crops not authorized here (RR2 soy)**
  - Checking with officials, government websites and the Monsanto annual review
    - No application to grow RR2 had been submitted by Monsanto by summer 2008 in either Argentina or Brazil
    - In both countries, a GMO can only be authorized once the market opportunities have been evaluated
    - In the US, cultivation of RR2 will be minor until 2010 when the EU is expected to be authorised for import



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

# GM crops and the EU livestock industry

## ○ **Impact of Chinese market**

- EU is projected by FAO to remain leading soymeal importer (China is leader on soybean)
- China has biosafety rules in place that are getting stricter
- Kraft, one of the world's leading food manufacturers has a GMO-free policy for its products on the Chinese market



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**



**Is the EU isolated, or is it the US?**



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

- Rather than impose strict contamination and traceability rules in US, on biotech companies ...
- .... it is cheaper for companies and US administration to push for EU laws to be weakened
- They are helped by the food price crisis and the panic that this has caused
- If “zero tolerance” is dropped, this will allow trace contamination in the EU
- Even more importantly, it will send a clear message to GM growing countries that they no longer need to be so vigilant about the EU
- This will increase the variety of GM crops grown commercially outside of the US
- It will speed up the spread of Monsanto and others new GM crops (even HT traits, even more expensive)



## ○ **Concerted lobby effort to get zero tolerance dropped**

- Animal Feed sector
  - Oilseed sector
  - Biotech lobby
  - Rice millers
  - Retailers
  - COPA COGECCA farm lobby
  - Etc
- 
- President Barroso and Agriculture Commissioner fully on board
  - Point one on sherpa group minutes
  - DG agriculture issues biased and poorly researched report (FoEE critique available FYI)
  - Member states (Netherlands, UK) issue biased reports
  - Commission for Health (Cyprus) is anti GM but the pressure is building



- **leaked document (spring 2008):**
  - 0.1 “technical zero” but would quickly have to go to 0.2, 0.3 ....
  - 0.5 (COPA COGECCA)
  - 0.9 (EuropaBio)
  - 5% (US)
- **proposal in the pipeline for 0.1%**
  - Presentation to Member States and vote expected this spring



## Ressource documents:

[http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/animal\\_feed/Briefing\\_animal\\_feed\\_GMOs\\_May\\_2008.pdf](http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/animal_feed/Briefing_animal_feed_GMOs_May_2008.pdf)

[http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/ZERO\\_TOLERANCE\\_Campaigner\\_briefing\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.foeeurope.org/GMOs/ZERO_TOLERANCE_Campaigner_briefing_FINAL.pdf)



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**