



# Portugal

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# PORTUGAL & GMO

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# THE REALITY

- MON 810 is grown freely
  - In 2007: 4199 ha of MON 810 out of a total of 116 700 ha of maize (3.6%)
  - In 2008: 15% increase to 4839 ha
- BUT: In the region that grows it the most, 48% of farmers that used it in 2007 had stopped using it in 2008

# THE MARKET

- Virtually 100% of animal feed has GMO
- For direct human consumption GMO can only be found in some cooking oil brands
- No animal products labelled “GM-free” except for organic food

# THE POLITICS

- Publicly, governments have been staunch GMO backers
  - BUT, when voting in Brussels (since 2003) Portugal has shown greater precaution:
    - 24x against GMO
    - 21x for
    - 15x abstentions

# THE LAW

- Directive 2001/18 has been transposed
- New — and unbelievably toothless! — laws are in effect:
  - Coexistence
  - Compensation fund
  - GMO-free zones

# THE REGIONS

- 27 Municipalities and 2 Regions have declared themselves GMO-Free
- In practice this has no legal force and cultivation is not affected
- They cannot even stop GM field trials (two are ongoing)

# THE PEOPLE

- Portuguese are the least knowledgeable in the EU, right after Lithuania, regarding GMO\*
- For and against GMO is quite even:\*\*
  - 45% have no opinion
  - Of those that have an opinion:
    - 50.9% are opposed
    - 49.1% are in favor

\* Eurobarometer 64.3 (2005) Europeans and Biotechnology in 2005: Patterns and Trends

\*\* Special Eurobarometer 295 (2008) Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment



# THE DISOBEDIENCE

- There has been a single GM maize field destruction (in 2007) involving about 100 "volunteer reapers"
- The police classified the incident as a terrorist action
- Four people are being prosecuted



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Portuguese GMO-Free Coalition

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