

**Brussels, April 21**

**NOTE**

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from:	Danish delegation
to:	Council
Subject:	Other business: GMO's in seed

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The European Union has made a great effort to secure the safety and freedom of choice of consumers with respect to genetically modified organisms. An important step has been the elaboration of regulations on traceability and labelling. These rules are now being applied in full.

In order to secure the basis for the new regulations, it is also important to establish clear rules for GMOs in seed. Studies carried out in Denmark on co-existence between genetically modified, conventional and organic crops have shown that the contents of GMOs in seed has considerable influence on the possibility of ensuring co-existence.

Therefore the Danish delegation calls upon the Commission to put forward as soon as possible a new proposal with respect to labelling and the contents of GMOs in seed. In order to secure the best possible conditions for co-existence, Denmark finds that thresholds in any forthcoming proposal should be set at detection level (0.1%).

Excerpts from the minutes of the 2578th Council meeting - AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES -  
Luxembourg, 26 April 2004

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**– Genetically Modified Organisms in seed**

(8689/04)

The Danish and Austrian delegations, supported by the Luxembourg delegation, stressed the need for the Community to establish clear rules for GMOs in seed and called upon the Commission to put forward as soon as possible a new proposal with respect to the labelling and content of GMOs in seed, in which the thresholds would be set at detection level (0,1%). These delegations expressed their concerns regarding the various threshold values to be set for seed and the need for the Commission to consult national experts prior to its decision.

The German delegation indicated its concerns following the considerable reduction of conventional crops in countries where GM crops had been introduced and wanted that fair and proper rules to be implemented very soon. The Italian delegation pointed to the need to have a clear definition as regards the adventitious presence of GM seed and also urged the Commission to present a proposal setting low tolerance thresholds. These thresholds could be changed, if necessary, in the next years depending on how national legislation performed.

Commissioner Byrne indicated that his Institution had been working on establishing thresholds regarding the adventitious presence of GMO content in seeds, and that a draft decision on this matter, in the framework of Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of GMOs, would be submitted in the coming weeks to a Committee for initial examination.

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