



ESA

European Seed Association

New EU policy on GMOs and ESA reaction

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Seed industry criteria for GM policy

- Reliable authorisation process respecting timelines and based on science
 - Synchronisation
 - Equivalence
- Practical enabling policy
 - AP threshold(s)
 - Uniform sampling and testing protocol
 - Practical Coexistence measures
 - Fair liability provisions
- => Freedom to operate for plant breeders and freedom of choice for farmers while safeguarding the EU's Internal Market for seed



The background

- The Barroso promise on GMO plantings
- New Commission with new responsibilities for GMOs
- New EU Treaty – more power for the European Parliament
- Evaluation of the current legal framework for GMOs
- Evaluation of New Breeding Techniques – “camouflage GMOs”



Commission priorities on GMOs

1. EU authorisations based on science (WTO)
2. National sovereignty on GM plantings and coexistence rules
3. “Technical solution” for LLP (for feed only!)
 - ...
 - ...
4. Thresholds for AP of GMOs in seed (only for events approved for cultivation!)



ESA reaction

- ESA Position and Press Release on the new policy approach for GMOs (July 2010)
 - Renationalisation and new Coexistence rules result in diff. legal status of a GM event **WITHIN** the EU
 - Acceptance of AP/LLP and achievable uniform standards are imperative to preserve the single market for seed!



ESA draft Position

Currently discussed in ESA CRLA and WG Biotech

- Coexistence: from support of MS approach to an EU framework defining scope, possible measures, criteria and limits
- AP vs. LLP: simplification needed!
 - AP: include all EU approved events, i.e. approved for cultivation and food/feed import at a workable level
- Threshold level(s): simplification needed
 - 0.5% for cross and 0.3% for self-pollinating crops as recommended by EU Scientific Committee (starting point)
- Standard sampling and testing protocol for seed providing EU-wide legal certainty



Next steps

Finalise ESA Position by early November to be able to communicate with national administrations and European Parliament

Legislative approach Directive 2001/18:

- Work for an inclusion of an AP threshold for seed
- Include a standard sampling and testing protocol

Alternative approaches:

- Standard sampling and testing protocol under SMDs/BR
- Include seed and food in „technical solution“ (LLP)

