

[en](#) | [de](#) | [fr](#)

[Press release](#) | 06.05.2013

EU food rules and seeds

Commission plans would threaten seed diversity

The European Commission today presented its food safety package, with proposals for new EU rules in a number of areas, including for seeds and plant reproductive products. The Greens expressed concern that the proposals on seeds would play into the hands of the agro-chemical industry and threaten seed diversity in Europe. Commenting on the plans, Green MEP and co-chair of the European Parliament's agriculture committee **José Bové** said:

"The proposed new EU rules on seeds would seriously threaten seed diversity in Europe and play directly into the hands of the bigger players in the agro-chemical industry. The proposals are a slap in the face to those who have pushed for greater diversity in farming and plant cultivation, and highlighted the social and environmental benefits of such diversity.

"The creation of a unified EU regulation, with the principle of mutual recognition replacing national systems, will create a cumbersome and expensive European authorisation procedure. This costly process would clearly hit medium-sized seed producing companies, and lead to a concentration in the variety of authorised seeds available. The plans play directly into the hands of larger corporations that prioritise mass-production of monoculture seed varieties, at the expense of diversity. The Commission is supporting these businesses to market their products on the global market as an all-in-one, together with the fertilisers and pesticides they also produce.

"While small companies (with less than 10 employees or €2 million in turnover) will be exempted from the authorisation process, the plans will push these regional and organic producers into a niche market and restrict them to being hobby breeders, denying them full market access."

Recommended

Press release



[Greens/EFA welcome Council finally adopts historic Nat...](#)

17.06.2024

Press release

<https://unsplash.com/photos/gray-concrete-building-covered-trees-dqXiw7nCb9Q>



[EU Parliament continues to support big Agri over small...](#)

24.04.2024

Press release

<https://www.greens-efa.eu/de/artikel/press/vote-on-eus-fiscal-rules-ignores-scars-of-financial-crisis-will-lead-to-more-austerity>



[MEPs adopt Ecodesign and Right to Repair Regulations](#)

23.04.2024

News

European Union



[Plenary Flash 22 - 25 April 2024](#)

19.04.2024

Responsible MEPs



José Bové

Member

Please share

[•E-Mail](#)