

Declaration on the authorization for cultivation of Genetically Modified maize 1507

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the placing on the market for cultivation, in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of a maize product (*Zea mays* L., line 1507) genetically modified for resistance to certain lepidopteran pests (COM(2013)758),
- having regard to Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC, and in particular the first subparagraph of Article 18(1) thereof,
- having regard to the Special Eurobarometer report 354 about food related risks¹
- having regard to the Commission Statement of 28 June 1999 on Council Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission,
- having regard to the Resolution of the European Parliament of 16 January 2014,

Whereas no GMO has been authorised for cultivation in the EU since 2010, when the Amflora potato was authorised;

Whereas the authorization to grow the Amflora potato was cancelled in accordance with the judgment of the General Court in Case T-240/10 of 13 December 2013 on the grounds that the Commission had acted unlawfully in granting the authorization;

Whereas the only other crop authorised for cultivation is Monsanto's maize MON 810, for which the renewal of authorisation has been pending for years;

Whereas both Council² and European Parliament³ acknowledge the necessity for a stricter assessment of the long-term effects of GMOs, as well as for independent research on the potential risks involved in the deliberate release or the placing on the market of GMOs, including the need to give independent researchers access to all relevant material;

Whereas a large majority of consumers is concerned about GM food, as indicated in the Special Eurobarometer 345 from 2010 inter alia; whereas GM maize 1507 offers no benefit to consumers;

Whereas on 16 January 2014 the European Parliament voted with a strong majority (385/201/30) on a resolution urging the Council to reject the Commission proposal;

Whereas the vote in the Council of General Affairs on 11 February 2014 on a Commission proposal for authorisation delivered no opinion; whereas only 5 Member States voted in favour of the

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/factsheet/docs/reporten.pdf>

² Environment Council conclusions of December 2008

³ Lepage report "Possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory"

proposal, while 19 Member States voted against and 4 abstained; whereas this represents a considerable increase in the opposition of Member States to the proposal compared to a previous vote of governments in 2009;

Whereas the Commission had declared on 28 June 1999 that it would act in such a way as to avoid going against any predominant position which might emerge against the appropriateness of an implementing measure;

We ask the Commission to withdraw its proposal to authorize GM maize 1507. Acting otherwise against the background of clear opposition in the Council and the European Parliament would signify a lack of respect for the democratic process and the EU institutions.

We consider that such an action would definitively discredit the EU institutions and we would feel obliged to launch a motion of censure of the Commission in the European Parliament in accordance with Article 234 TFEU.