



GMOs: **Where are we in the EU?**

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GMO Cultivation: A new Directive

- **Agreement found in Council and Parliament after 4,5 years of intense discussion.**
- **As from 2 April 2015, the new Directive on GMO Cultivation will give more freedom to MS to decide on cultivation of EU authorised GMOs on their territory, based on reasons other than risk on health/environment.**
- **The EU wide risk assessment and authorisation system is preserved.**

GMO Cultivation Directive: Key features

- **Option 1: Before EU authorisation, a Member States can exclude part or all of its territory from the geographical scope of the application, with agreement of the applicant.**
 - No justification needed.
 - 6 month transitional measures for pending and authorised GMOs.
 - The Member States can reintegrate the geographical scope of the authorisation later.
- **Option 2 ("Opt out"): Any time after EU authorisation, a Member State can adopt measures to restrict or ban GMO cultivation on part of or all its territory.**
 - The decision must be based on reasoned grounds not in conflict with the EU assessment of risks on health/environment (e.g. environmental/agricultural policy objectives, town and country planning, land use, socio-economic impacts, coexistence, public policy, etc.)
- **Coexistence measures at borders of Member States that cultivate GMOs.**

GMO cultivation: pending applications

- **4 applications with a favourable EFSA opinion:**
1507 maize; Bt11 maize; MON810 maize; GA21 maize.
- **4 applications under risk assessment by EFSA:**
59122 maize; MIR604 maize; Bt11xMIR604xGA21 maize;
1507x59122 maize.

GM food/feed: pending applications

- **13 Decisions already went to Standing and Appeal Committees and have to be adopted by Commission.**
- **4 applications with favourable EFSA opinion: submission to Standing Committee in March.**
- **40 pending applications under risk assessment by EFSA.**



European
Commission

President Juncker's political guidelines

➤ President's political guidelines:

"it is simply not right that under the current rules, the Commission is legally forced to authorise new organisms for import and processing even though a clear majority of Member States is against. The Commission should be in a position to give the majority view of democratically elected governments at least the same weight as scientific advice, notably when it comes to the safety of the food we eat and the environment in which we live"

➤ Mission letter to Commissioner Andriukaitis:

To review by end of April 2015 the decision-making process applied to GMOs, in line with the political guidelines.