

MINISTERSTVO ŽIVOTNÉHO PROSTREDIA
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY
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Department of Biosafety

European Commission
DG-Environment
Mrs. Chantal Bruetschy
BU 52/128
B-1049 BRUSSEL
BELGIUM

Date: 27th. January 2010

Dear Mrs. Chantal Bruetschy,

Following to your e-mails of 29th July 2009 and of 22nd January 2010, the Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic is pleased to write you the Slovakian comments on the "Questionnaire about the socio-economic implications of the placing on the market of GMOs for cultivation".


Slovakia considers the activities of the Commission to collect experiences of Member States with regard to socio-economic effects caused by GMO cultivation as important.

In the questionnaire, there are many questions difficult to answer, because of the limited experience with GMO cultivation in Slovakia. Even though in Slovakia GM maize MON 810 began to commercially grow in 2006, the cultivation area was only of 30 ha. Since this time the cultivation area increased only to 875 ha, in 2009. However, the GM cultivating areas of MON810 represent only 1 % from the total agriculturally utilized area in Slovak republic.

Until now any study about socio-economic implications of cultivating GMO on farmers and producers has been done in our country. Anyway, we are of the opinion that there are some important influences. The obligation of labeling products raised from GMOs has bad impact on producers, who are declaring, that this duty will increase the expenses for each product raised from GMOs. Pursuant to this obligation the producers won't buy the yield crop from farmers.

Also some processing companies have designed their own limits for adventitious presence of genetically modified maize in seed for the purchase, which are considerably lower (eg 0.02%) than a labeling threshold. For this reason, some farmers have problems to sell their conventional maize yields, which were grown near to the GM maize areas.

With regards


Ing. Igor Ferenčík
Director of the Department