

# EU 'Zero Tolerance' in seeds

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NGOs and Scientists network

GMO Free Europe – Future and Challenges

Berlin, Germany

# State of play

- **Authorised GMOs:** no threshold established at EU level.
- **Unauthorised GMOs :** seed lots are not allowed in the EU market if they are detected.
- **2009. Commission proposed recommendations:**
  - (Rec. 2) to *'ensure that national provisions do not regulate a labelling threshold for the adventitious presence of GM seed in conventional seed lots. Such threshold shall be set at EU level under the procedure laid down in Article 30.2 of Directive 2001/18/EC, as provided by Article 21.2 of the same Directive.'*
  - (Rec. 3) to *'ensure that until a labelling threshold for the adventitious presence of GM seed in conventional seed is set, under Article 30.2 of Directive 2001/18/EC, the limit of detection is used'.*



# State of play

- **Dec 2014: Food and Veterinary Office.DG Health and Consumer. audits carry out in 10 MS (2011-2013).**
- **On seeds and propagating materials:**
  - Situation in Member States contravenes EU legislation on labelling and traceability and official controls.
  - NL, ES, RO, PL, CZ,FR: set up labelling thresholds at national level. Between 0,1% and 0,5%.
  - SE: has not set up any official control



# State of Play

- **2002:** Commission wanted to propose a directive to regulate the AP of GM in seeds.
- **2003:**
  - EP and EC adopted regulations on traceability and labelling.
  - Commission announced same directive as 2002.
  - Directive on seeds: amend EU directives on seed production and marketing of diff crops setting thresholds .
    - 0,3% Rape seed
    - 0,5% Maize, Beet, Tomato and potato
    - 0,7% soya
  - Similar grains (e.g wheat) would follow.
  - Position civil society : all non-GM seeds are required to be free of GMOs at the DL (0.1%)
  - Successful civil society campaign, in the end the Directive proposal was never adopted within the Commission.
- **Now:**
  - The Commission decided to address the issue of the technical zero in food.
  - They are considering the possibility to follow the same approach for seed.
  - **The European Union Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed**, has set up a working group on sampling and testing of GM seeds in order to improve the **harmonisation of official controls**.



# Some considerations

- Prevention on seed level cheapest possibility to avoid contamination throughout food chain.
- ZT free seed should be a matter of priority.
- Safeguard: 'zero' threshold for tolerating the AP of GE material in non-GE seed.
- Austrian seed law: model of legal requirement for avoiding contamination of seed



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