



PRESS RELEASE

Commission has to swiftly propose LLP food TS proposal to protect industry from upcoming constraints

For FEDIOL the adoption of technical solution for low-level presence in feed can only be a first step, which needs to be followed by an equivalent solution for food before the end of this year.

Brussels, 27 June 2011: FEDIOL welcomes the fact that the issue of the low level presence (LLP) of not yet EU authorized GM events has been recognized by the EU and national policy makers. However, limiting the LLP Technical Solution (TS)¹ – which was adopted last Friday - to feed only, leaves food producers in total limbo.

"The technical solution has to be extended to food to be comprehensive and equally workable for all sectors - said FEDIOL Director General Nathalie Lecocq – considering the increasing risk of low level presence, as food producers we simply cannot sustain the crushing of imported soy on the basis of the feed only solution. Hence, we trust that the Commissioner Dalli, fulfilling its promised step-wise approach, will present a food TS for Member States consideration swiftly".

The absence of a food TS is leaving food chain operators exposed to a serious legal and economic risk in case vegetable oils produced cannot be sold to the food market due to LLP in the oilseeds. With the legal uncertainty and the risk of supply disruption, EU crushers will be at a competitive disadvantage to their third country competitors, who face no restriction as to LLP and have no problem in supplying the EU food market with very similar vegetable oils. The current legal situation creates a substantial disincentive to EU-based crushing activity and favours imports of crude or refined oils depriving the EU from value creation and jobs. In the medium-term this situation will lead to a deterioration of the business environment and industry competitiveness.

Considering that the adopted regulation is about setting good scientific practices to avoid distortion and legal uncertainty on test results, it is difficult to justify presentation of these recommendations only for some EU sectors and discrimination of the others, which violates the fundamental EU principle of equal treatment.

FEDIOL strongly urges the EU and national policy makers to accelerate the process for tabling a proposal for a technical solution for food in order to end the legal uncertainty and minimize the risk of economic damages for the industries concerned.

¹ Commission Regulation 619/2011, laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed as regards the presence of genetically modified material for which an authorization procedure is pending or the authorization of which has expired

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FEDIOL

Notes to editors:

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European seed and bean crushers, meals producers, vegetable oils and fats producers/processors. Its members crush 30 million tonnes of oilseeds a year, and the EU industry serves the second largest world market of vegetable oils after China.

Contacts

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Further reading

“An Avoidable Market Crisis”, August 2009

JRC report: The Global pipeline of new GM crops: implications of asynchronous approval for international trade, July 2009

<http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=2420>