



PRESS RELEASE

APPROVAL OF FEED-ONLY 'TECHNICAL SOLUTION' IMPOSES HIGH RISK OF SUPPLY DISRUPTION FOR FOOD CHAIN SECTOR

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health approves technical solution for the low level presence of not yet EU authorized, but safety assessed and authorized in the country of origin, GM events for feed –ignoring demands from Member States and industry for food inclusion.

Brussels, 22 February 2011 - In its meeting today, the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health has voted with qualified majority in favour of a European Commission proposal for a technical solution for the low level presence of not yet EU authorized, but safety assessed and authorized in the country of origin, GM events for feed. The European Commission's resistance, at this stage, to go for both food and feed at the same time, left Member States with the only option to approve the existing draft – limited to feed.

"As food producers, we are disappointed by what appears as a purely political decision, which ignores the reality of the problems on the ground." said FEDIOL Director General Nathalie Lecocq, *"the feed only solution offers simply no alleviation to the risks and problems for oilseeds processors with consequences in terms of supply disruption for both the food and feed markets.. ."*

The food and feed supply chains are interconnected on a number of levels and their total separation is neither workable nor economically viable. Numerous oil crops are imported to complement EU production and supplies which are used for both food and feed applications (soybean, sunflower seeds, rapeseeds). The absence of a technical solution for food –certainly for the remainder of 2011 – will affect the economic viability of oil crop crushing in Europe, forcing the EU soybean crushers to considerably reduce their activities. This will certainly have negative impact on the competitiveness of the crushing sector and of the overall investment climate.

"A majority of EU Member States have understood the justified concerns of the food and feed chain industries," said Lecocq. **"We hope the European Commission and Commissioner Dalli will now accelerate the process for tableing a proposal for a technical solution for food in order to end legal uncertainty and minimize the risk of economic damages for the industries concerned"**.

ENDS***

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>