



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NO DECISION ON LLP "TECHNICAL SOLUTION" KEEPS UNCERTAINTY FOR FOOD AND FEED INDUSTRIES**

**As the vote is postponed, will the Commission and MS respond to the justified concerns of EU food and feed chain industries and extend the scope of the solution to cover food?**

Brussels, 10 February 2011 – At the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health meeting on 8 and 9 February, the Commission and Member States did not reach a consensus on the proposal for a technical solution for the low level presence of not yet EU authorized GM events for feed.

*"Member States and the Commission should be conscious that the supply disruptions we faced in 2009 are likely to occur again in 2011. Except that this time, there will be little alternative sourcing available to replace some 13 million tonnes of soybeans we crush in Europe to supply food and feed markets",* said Nathalie Lecocq- Director general of FEDIOL. The numerous incidents in 2009 showed that the "technical solution" is indispensable for the EU food and feed industry to retain processing in Europe and maintain competitiveness on the international scene. Lack of such a solution will considerably impair EU food and feed production, affecting the chain from farmers to consumers.

It is important to note that the feed only solution does not address the reality of the problem on the ground. It offers no solution to the oilseed crushing businesses operating in Europe. The food and feed supply chains are interconnected and their separation is neither workable nor economically viable. A majority of EU Member States have understood the justified concerns of the necessity of the technical solution for both food and feed. We hope more will acknowledge the increasing risks all operators are facing and hence will respond to the request from EU operators by supporting as soon as possible a technical solution for both food and feed supplies.

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>