

A new fruit garden for Europe?

Svetla Nikolova,
AGROLINK Association and GMO free Coalition



27.01.2006

Strict legislation without strict control



27.01.2006
AgrOlink

The law

Official situation

- In force since 1st of June 2005



A

Problems

- *Administration capacity:*
- The Consultative Commission, was established 17 months after the Act was adopted, in September 2006.

The law

Official situation

Two Regulations for implementation of the Act were adopted in October 2005



27.01.2006
AgroLink

Problems

- Present administrative capacity is insufficient to ensure implementation of the law.
- Notification forms are not approved.

Deliberate release

Official statement

No growing of transgenic plants in Bulgaria

Problems

- some of the companies reported: GM crops have been grown
- Seed list of Monsanto with GM maize



Labeling and food control

Official statements

- Labeling is a part of the Act on Foodstuff



Problems

- In December 2006, a group of NGOs discovered GM soya for sale in supermarkets

The amendments of the law

Official statements

- The official position of the Bulgarian government and the national Assembly is that Bulgaria belongs to the groups with strict opposition to GMO like Austria, Greece, and Hungary.

Problems

- The report issued in beginning of 2007 of twining project between Germany and Bulgarian Ministries for Environment recommended that the strictest texts of the law be changed and a more liberal position on GMOs be taken



Civil society movement

The situation

- Coalition GM free Bulgaria
- Successful campaign with several victories
- Many events, debates, media publications

Problems

- Only a few NGOs are active in the GMO campaign.
- The farmers unions and associations are not involved enough in the GMO free movement



Expectations

Promised

- It is most likely that the government will adopt a ban on MON 810 maize.



Challenge

- The government is ready to allow field trials of GM cotton.
- Big advertisements on agro fuels, especially GM soya oilseed from the business, investors, government, scientists.

GM free regions



4. GM free regions

- Public opinion and policy decisions in Bulgaria are going towards a GMO free Bulgaria.



Agr  link



**GMO Free
Tomato Tour**

Organic vs GMO



27.01.2006
AgrOlink

If Bulgaria is a new basket full of tasty and healthy fruits for European consumers, this can happen only if the fruits are not GMO.



27.01.2