



**Biological effects
of transgenic maize NK603xMON810 fed
in long term reproduction studies in mice**



Regulation in the EU and current state of risks (problem cases)

Regulierung in der EU und Stand der Risiken (Problemfälle)

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Regulation in EU and current state of risks



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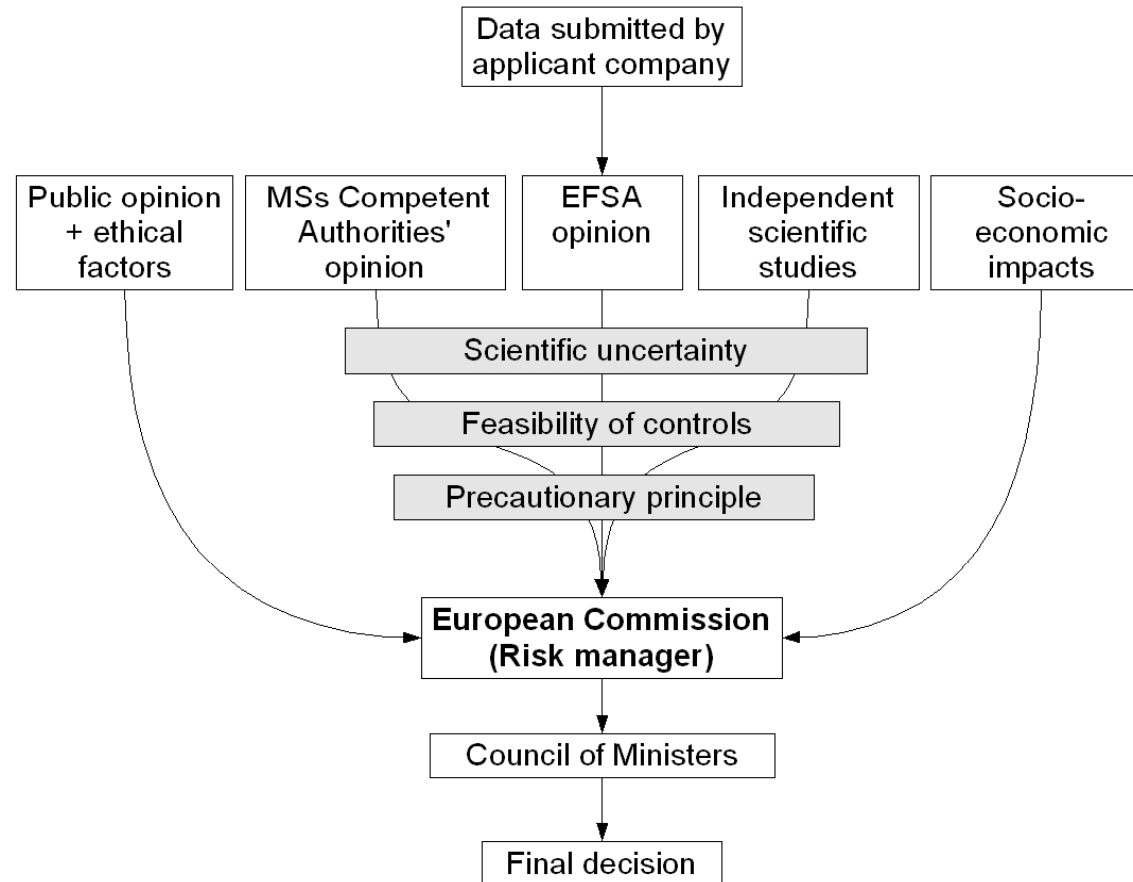
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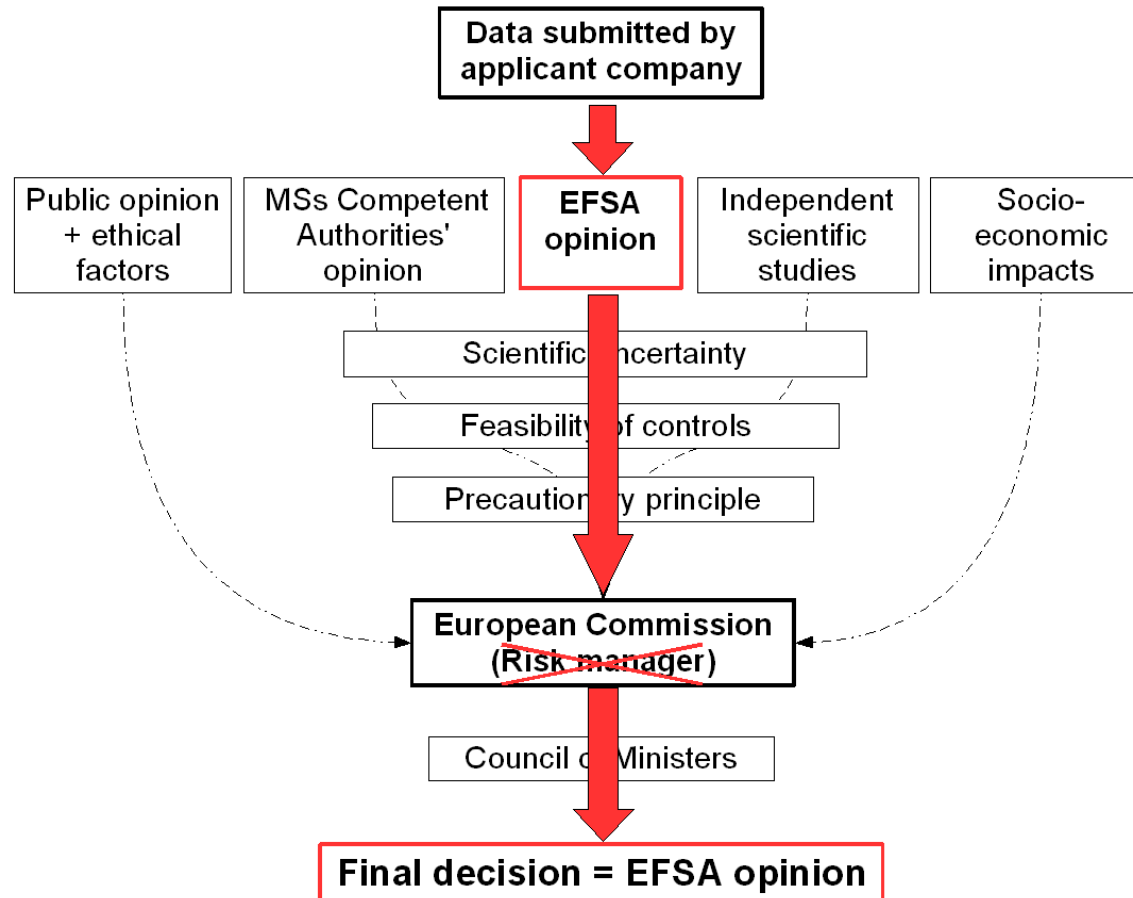
EU successes

- Only 1 crop authorised: Monsanto MON810 maize
- National bans
 - 6 countries ban the cultivation (DE, LU, FR, GR, HU, AT) + **CH**
 - 6 countries cultivate (ES, PT, CZ, SK, RO, PL?)
- GM cultivated area less than 0.2% EU land for cereals (2008)
- No authorisations for cultivation since 1998
- Consistent public opposition
- Food market practically free from GM products
- Political and media interest

The authorisation system



The authorisation system



European Food Safety Authority

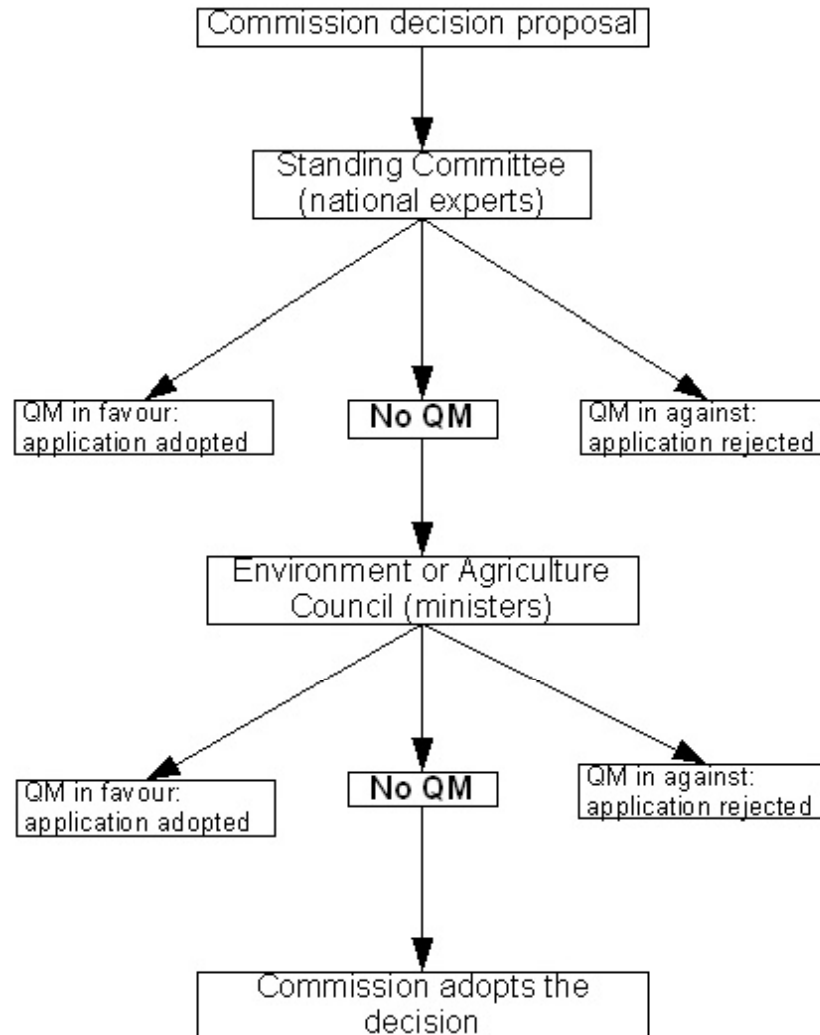
- Lack of environmental and ecological expertise
 - 3 out of 21 scientists ('Food safety' authority Reg.178/2002)
- No long-term assessments (Dir. 2001/18 Annex II)
- No account of geographical/environmental areas
- No acknowledgement of scientific uncertainties
- No minority opinions expressed
- No consideration of independent criticisms
- No co-operation with other panels (eg. Pest. Biohaz.)
- Risk manager considerations

- “New” GMO panel from July 2009

European Commission

- **Generally pro-GMOs** (Barroso, Secretary General, Fischer-Boel)
- **No respect for Council** (Predominant Position)
- **Hides behind EFSA opinions**
- **Sole responsible for authorizing GMOs**
- **Powerful under comitology**

The Comitology trap



The momentum

- February 2008: French MON810 ban
 - May 2008: Commission orientation debate (Maize, Potato, Rice)
 - April 2008: UN Ag Assessment (IAASTD)
 - July-Dec. 2008: Council debate - Conclusions
 - March 2009: Rejection of lifting AT & HU bans (QMV)
 - April 2009: German MON810 ban
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- June 2009: European elections
 - Autumn 2009: Implementation of Council Conclusions?

Member states

Firm blocking minorities in both directions

- No qualified majority
- 6 bans, 6 cultivations

Council Conclusions

- EU law on GMOs not implemented properly - Need to:
- Improve GMO risk assessment (broaden scientific expertise)
- assess long-term impacts of GM crops
- assess effects on non-target organisms
- fully consider specific geographical characteristics
- assess environmental consequences of herbicide-tolerant
- address the socio-economic impacts of GM cultivation
- involve independent researcher (grant them access to information)
- Legal/Political recognition of GMO-free areas

The threats

- **Pending authorisations** (20 cultivation - 32 import and foo& feed)
- **Food crisis** (industry propaganda)
- **Financial crisis**
- **Legal challenges from companies** (Pioneer, BASF)
- **New Commission & EP** (New balance of power)
- **Climate negotiations** (COP 15)
- **Next EU Presidencies** (Sweden/Spain/Belgium)
- **New proposals**
 - Seed thresholds (seed contamination)
 - Zero tolerance (import contamination)
 - “Dutch proposal” (Fast track approvals - Socio-economic criteria)
 - WG on definition of GMOs

“Iconic” authorisations

Bt crops and potato

first cultivation authorisations
since '98

Rice

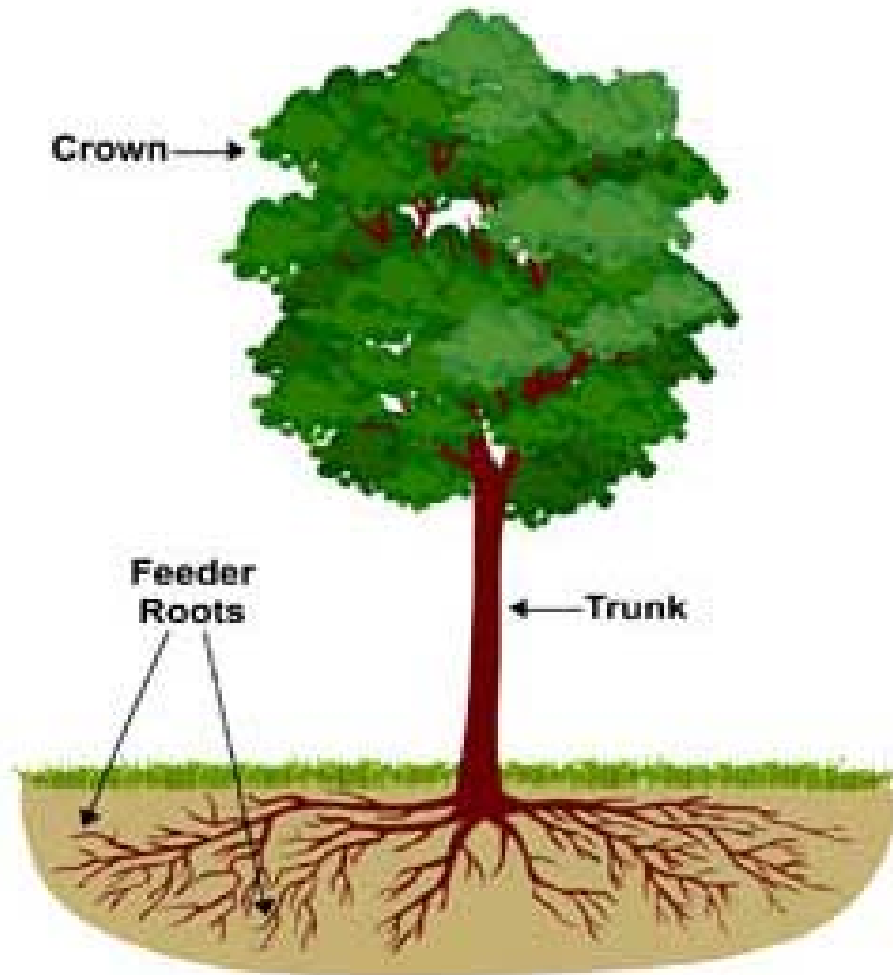
first GM food in the EU

MON810 re-assessment

the only GMO authorised so far

How to move forward?

GMOs in the EU



ROOTS

Authorisation system

- Implement Council Conclusions
- New risk assessment
- New Comm/Council attitude

SOIL

- Raise consumers awareness
- Market focus
- Promote new solutions for Agriculture (IAASTD)

Thank



You!

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