



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Minutes

GMO transparency through labeling: mandatory GMO labeling vs voluntary GMO-free labeling

Date/Time	8 May 2015, 9.00-11.00
Place	North Rhine-Westphalian Representative Berlin
Agenda	<p>-US labelling initiatives -Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers, USA -EU situation on labelling -Impacts of labelling regulation; Its failures (lack of labelling for animal products); prospects of mandatory GMO labelling for animal products; GMO-free voluntary labelling as an intermediate step? -Alexander Hissting, V-LOG, A stakeholder view Significance of GMO-free labelling for economic stakeholders; how to increase the share of GMO-free animal products? -Ursula Bittner, Danube Soya -Roundtable with stakeholders (Arnaud Apoteker moderator)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO representative, possibly in favour of GMO mandatory labelling, • a regional authority (from a region that would like to link quality food with the region) Renaud Layadi, Région Bretagne, a « GMO-free » retailer Hervé Gomichon, Carrefour • Poultry or pork producer or feedstuff producer Franci Bavec, University of Maribor, Slovenia • Laurent Houis, Solteam • A soya crushing company <p>-Victoria group, Serbia Natalija Kurjak</p>

Why labeling?

Consumer have easy access to GM free products

Consumer benefits

Ronnie Cummins, Organic Consumers, USA:

-controversial: Industry invested a lot in GM but public is still sceptic (40% Americans believe GM is non safe, 40% non-sure, 20% they are safe)

1994 labeling started and revised 1999

-no major support

Campaigns in public-food consumer 1996-against that GM is allowed in organic food. All of this resulted for Industry to step back.

Collision for mandatory labeling of GM food 2012 California, 2013 Washington, 2014 Oregon, resulted that Coca Cola changed their product (market place pressure, social media (Facebook, other...)).

By 2018 (40.000 items in stores) will be labeled.

-If Europe and China can label feed it will be end of GM production

Mr. Alexander Hissting, Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V. (VLOG)

259 members (Industry Association: Edeka, Rewe, big dairy products...)

-no Eu GM labeling in next five years

-90% of all GM imported is feed

-Consumers in Eu cannot influence GM, no transparency on labeling.

-organic products often more expensive

-alternative to labeling of GM products are voluntary GM free labels -opportunity to advertise, GM free value in Austria, France, Germany, Slovenia and South Tirol-national labels, and in In Luxemburg and Hungary in the pipeline.

GM free label important: to educate consumers to make a choice, but also it influences competitors who are not labeled to think to label their products. Successful stories in Germany and Austria which are main driving forces: Austria is leading in GM free market share, so far 100% broilers, dairy and 100% eggs are certified GM free.

Alliance with NGOs, who are asking that feed is labeled

Keep the balance, labeling criteria in GM free should be balanced

Ms. Ursula Bittner, Donau Soja

EU import of more and more meal. China is the main buyer in the world, and buys beans and crush it domestically.

In 2013 80% of all cultivated soya was GM, at the same time GM free is more expensive. We import soybeans from 16 million ha. 1 kg of pork-77% CO2 coming from land use change, additionally 66% of people in EU are afraid of GM. 5 million tons of EU GM free (20% Germany, 4% in Austria). 50% of imports is for pork production.

Donau Soja labeling and market:

Stands for: Production region, GM free, 2008 before that no change in land use, ILO/EU labor rights and pesticides legislation of the EU.

-2.5 million tons soybeans is produced in Europe in 2014

-So far 80% of eggs in Austria are DS certified and labeled

-two pork projects in Austria (Hütthaler and Schirnhofer)

-Swiss projects with Migros and Coop

Roundtable with stakeholders (Arnaud Apoteker moderator)

- Significance of GMO-free labelling for economic stakeholders; how to increase the share of GMO-free animal products? -Ursula Bittner, Danube Soya

- Roundtable with stakeholders (Arnaud Apoteker moderator)

- NGO representative, possibly in favour of GMO mandatory labelling,

Mr. Franci Bavec, University of Maribor

Slovenia started campaign and has selected 1200 milk producers to become GM free certified, supported by control and labeling Institute in Slovenia

They protected/patented labeling called " produced without + GMO feed"=label

-Ministry tried to recall this label four to five months ago, but haven't succeed. Germany and Austria supported GM free label existence.

Mr. Laurent Houis, Sol Team

Food crisis in France: mid '80, '90 in food sector-bad cows and diseases, 2000

Cooperative is looking for traceability (raw material, soybean meal) and support.

-Import 500.000 tons of meal (2/3 GM free, 1/3 GM)

Supporting contract establishment in non gm sustainable chain, suppliers with farmers for non GM label (voluntary)

Non GM is no enough should be associated with higher quality, label Rouge

Ms. Natalija Kurjak, Victoria Logistic

-Victoria Group is exporting more than 80% of products to the EU

-Chances for Serbia to export

Danofa Organic Farmer (pigs, chicken)

- 2008 protested (strike against GM), member of council
- it is not possible to buy GM free feed in Poland
- Problem in sourcing

Mr. Hervé Gomichon, Carrefour, retailer

23 countries, 1 billion turnover

1998: alternative to consumer, right to choose

- 1) first they wanted to convert to EU corn
- 2) feed all animals with GM free soya

In 2004 new EU law

2009 French pressured government for GM free feeding label. Launched in 2010 (green label)-fed with GM free.

Alternative sources to Brasil are important: India and Danube Soya regions...

Labeling is important as communication tool between retail and consumers, to gain trust and obtain transparency

Even if complexity of supply chain will increase it is important to follow GM free labeling.

Mr. Renaud Layadi

"be simple & time is the key"

64 regions all over EU

Important to have demand & supply

- GM domination within the system
- Contamination-label policy (brand)
- roll back GM free market development