



Wallonien (Belgien)

Jean-Luc Servais

Respect of Life & Free Choice for Everybody



RÉGION WALLONNE

Respect of Life & Free Choice for Everybody



*Benoît Lutgen, Minister of Agriculture,
Environment, Tourism and Rurality*

«I warmly thank you all for your long term commitment and initiatives around agro-GMO's in Europe. The debate is tough and there is still a long way to go. But be sure that together, there is little we cannot achieve.»



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Federal : in charge of GMO related health & environmental issues
Regions : in charge of GMO open field testing and coex regulation

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Some facts

> EU

- the paradox of the European Union
- one of the strongest regulation on GMO in the world
- rather weak work processes (particularly on scientific level)
- strong corporate lobbying at Commission level (pro-GMO)
- no common vision at Member State level

> BE

- Presence of GMO, even not authorized ones, in many everyday products sold in supermarkets (up to 20% of tested sample-TA2009)
- Non GMO labelling is currently not allowed (FASFC and FAE)
- Up to now, priority given to agrobusiness & intensive agriculture & gentech development on Federal level and in North of country
- 'Respect of life and free choice for everybody' is not yet reality



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- > Agriculture : 50% of territory, < 1% of active population, rather small areas/family oriented farms, fast growing bio agriculture
- > Strong support of bio farming and short distribution circuits
- > No use of GMO in open fields up to now
- > Regulation on coexistence of type of cultures,
aim : respect & free choice, consumers-farmers-retail-community



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Wallonia

- > Regulation on Coexistence of type of cultures
 - texts available on Moniteur.be or Europa.eu
 - political decision, no consensus
 - strong starting rules for candidate GMO farmers to decrease dissemination
 - quick financial compensation process in case of contamination
 - easy set-up of GMO-free areas
 - heavy fines for farmers/producers who do not respect the regulation
 - full info on GMO fields on the internet

- > Endorsement of the Charter of Florence

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More open collaboration and less competition, that is what we need, at this right moment of history, if we really **want to respect mother nature**, her diversity and all forms of life present on this planet, but also if we **want to benefit from a true free choice in food**.
Be sure of it : together, there is little we cannot achieve !

