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Mr Michael O'Callaghan,  
Chairman,  
Global Vision Consulting Ltd,  
Little Alders,  
Knockwrath,  
Rathdrum,  
Co. Wicklow

13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2004

**Re: Coexistence of GM crops with conventional and organic farming**

Dear Mr O'Callaghan

Since early 2003, the EU Commission have been examining the issue of coexistence between the growing of GM crops with conventional and organic farming. While the Commission issued a Recommendation in July 2003 "on guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming" (copy enclosed for your attention), it expressed itself in favour of an approach that would leave it up to individual Member States to develop and implement measures for coexistence. In response, an interdepartmental/interagency Working Group has been set up to examine the issues relating to the growing of GM crops in Ireland.

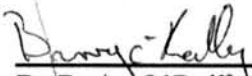
The remit of the Working Group is to (1) identify and evaluate issues and implications for crop production in Ireland that will arise from the cultivation of GM crops; and (2) to develop proposals for a national strategy and best practices to ensure the coexistence of GM crops with conventional and organic farming.

As part of the Working Group's programme, meetings are taking place with relevant stakeholders. These meetings provide an opportunity for the Working Group to hear views on the issues involved.

The Working Group would like to discuss with representatives of GM-Free Ireland the issues that you foresee in the area of coexistence.

It is hoped to have this discussion at your earliest convenience. I would be grateful if you would reply with possible dates that would be suitable.

Kind Regards

  
Dr Barry O'Reilly  
Secretary