



GMO-free zones: Petition to the European Commission

Across the European Union, thousands of local and regional government authorities want to exclude the growing of genetically modified (GM) crops in their area. The reasons for taking such an initiative include:

- concerns about the many scientific uncertainties surrounding the long term safety of GM foods and the effect on the environment of growing GM crops;
- the clear difficulties of growing GM crops without contaminating traditional, conventional, and organic crops, and the economic effects this will have on the agri-food sector;
- the demands from their citizens for GM-free food and a GM-free local environment;

Current European law fails to protect these local and regional government authorities. And internationally, there is increasing pressure to force GM crops into the European Union, especially via the US-led trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation.

WE, the undersigned, believe that in order to protect our local economy, culture, environment and health of our citizens, EU law must include the democratic right of local and regional governments to decide whether GM crops can be cultivated in their given area.

We also believe that there should be no EU wide approvals for the cultivation of GMOs until these matters are resolved and that there should be strict labelling regulations for any presence of GMOs in conventional and organic seeds at the practical detection limit.

.....
(Name of local/regional authority or constituency)

Signed

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(Name and position)