

Resolution on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1826 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize DP23211 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

2024/2838(RSP) - 26/11/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 474 votes to 166, with 17 abstentions, a resolution **objecting** to the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1826 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize DP23211 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

On 11 December 2019, Pioneer Overseas Corporation, based in Belgium, submitted, on behalf of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., based in the United States, an application to the national competent authority of the Netherlands for the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients and feed containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize DP23211, consisting of the GM maize for uses other than food and feed, with the exception of cultivation.

The GM maize contains genes conferring **resistance to glufosinate** and produces insecticidal proteins.

Parliament highlighted the **lack of assessment of complementary herbicides**. It recalled in this regard that a number of studies show that herbicide-tolerant GM crops result in a higher use of complementary herbicides, in large part because of the emergence of herbicide-tolerant weeds.

Glufosinate is classified as **toxic to reproduction 1B**. The approval of glufosinate for use in the Union expired on 31 July 2018.

Member States submitted many critical comments to EFSA, including that the monitoring plan concerned does not ensure that relevant information for the monitoring of the product is gathered and therefore cannot be considered adequate, as well as that the insecticidal protein produced by the plant has not been adequately assessed.

Parliament stressed the need to ensure a **global level playing field** given the challenge of diverging standards of the Union and its trading partners, and to respect the **EU's international obligations**.

According to Members, authorising the import for food or feed uses of any GM plant which has been made tolerant to herbicides is incoherent with the Union's international commitments under, inter alia, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Framework, which includes a global target to reduce the risk of pesticides by at least 50 % by 2030. It is also important to **reduce the dependency** on imported feed.

On a **procedural** note, Parliament recalled that it adopted 38 resolutions objecting to the placing of GMOs on the market. Despite its own acknowledgement of the democratic shortcomings, the lack of support from Member States and the objections of Parliament, the Commission continues to authorise GMOs.

On the basis of these considerations, Parliament considered that the Implementing Decision is **not consistent with Union law**, which is to provide the basis for ensuring a high level of protection of human life and health, animal health and welfare, and environmental and consumer interests, in relation to GM food and feed, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market.

Therefore, Parliament called on the Commission to:

- **repeal Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1826;**
- ensure **convergence of standards** between the Union and its partners in free trade agreement negotiations, in order to meet Union safety standards;
- **not authorise** herbicide-tolerant GM crops, due to the associated increased use of complementary herbicides and therefore the increased risks to biodiversity, food safety and workers' health;
- deliver, as matter of urgency, on its commitment to come forward with a proposal to ensure that **hazardous chemicals** banned in the Union are not produced for export;
- **take into account the Union's obligations under international agreements**, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The draft implementing acts should be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining how they uphold the principle of 'do no harm'.