







Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2023/2759(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87419 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council		
Subject 3.10.09.06 Agro-genetics, GMOs		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		15/06/2023
			15/06/2023
		PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa	15/06/2023
			15/06/2023
		SIDL Günther	
		HÄUSLING Martin	
		HAZEKAMP Anja	

Key events			
12/09/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/09/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0307/2023	Summary
12/09/2023	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2759(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on implementing act or powers
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5; Rules of Procedure EP 112-p2

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/12312

Documentation gateway

Motion for a resolution	B9-0362/2023	04/09/2023	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0307/2023	12/09/2023	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)558	19/12/2023	EC	

Resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87419 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

The European Parliament adopted by 426 votes to 180, with 21 abstentions, a resolution objecting to the draft Commission implementing authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87419 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

On 31 March 2017, Monsanto S.A./N.V, based in Belgium, submitted, on behalf of Monsanto Company, 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 MON 87419 (the GM maize). The application also covered the placing on the market of products containing or consisting of the GM maize for uses other than food and feed, with the exception of cultivation.

On 30 November 2022, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted a favourable opinion on the application.

Lack of assessment of the complementary herbicide

Parliament pointed out that the vast majority of GM crops have been genetically modified so that they are tolerant to one or more complementary herbicides which can be used throughout the cultivation of the GM crop, without the crop dying, as would be the case for a non-herbicide tolerant crop. 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.

Herbicide-tolerant GM crops lock farmers into a weed management system that is largely or wholly dependent on herbicides, and does so by charging a premium for GM seeds that can be justified only if farmers purchasing such seed also spray the complementary herbicide.

The GM maize was developed to confer tolerance to dicamba- and glufosinate-based herbicides. Dicamba is a highly volatile herbicide which according to research increases the risk of developing liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancers.

Parliament stated that assessment of herbicide residues and metabolites found on GM plants is considered outside the remit of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms and is therefore not undertaken as part of the authorisation process for GMOs.

Undemocratic decision-making

Members recalled that the vote on 1 June 2023 of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed delivered no opinion, meaning that the authorisation was not supported by a qualified majority of Member States. The reasons for Member States not supporting authorisations include lack of respect for the precautionary principle in the authorisation process and scientific concerns relating to the risk assessment. The lack of support from Member States and the objections of Parliament means that the Commission continues to authorise GMOs.

Recommendations

On the basis of these considerations, Parliament considered that the Commission's implementing decision is not consistent EU law. Consequently, it called on the Commission to:

- withdraw its draft implementing decision;
- not to 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;
- come forward with a proposal to ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the Union are not produced for export.

Noting that the Commission recognised the need to take sustainability into account when it comes to authorisation decisions on GMOs, Parliament expressed its deep disappointment that the Commission has continued to authorise GMOs for import into the Union, despite ongoing objections by Parliament and a majority of Member States voting against. The Commission is urged to take into account the Unions obligations under international agreements.