

# GM-free Labelling: a Strategy to safeguard EU GMO-free Products Needs

7th GMO-free European Regions  
Conference, Urbino

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# Friends of the Earth

- **Federation of 70 national autonomous organisations, including FoE US**
- **Campaigning for social and environmental justice**
- **Over 5000 grassroots groups worldwide**
- **31 organisations in the European network**
- **German member: Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland - BUND**
- **European secretariat in Brussels with ~ 25 staff**
- **Programmes on Economic Justice, Climate and Energy, Food and Biodiversity incl. GM issues**

# GM Crops in Europe

- MON810 maize only GM crop authorized for cultivation
- MON810 banned in Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxemburg
- GM crop area under cultivation tiny: 0.06 % of agricultural land
- Most of this (74 %) is located in one land: Spain

Europe imports ~ 75 % of its needs for feed – mainly soy  
Significant amounts of Roundup-resistant GM soy imported for feed

GM-free soy supplied by Brazil: 6,3 million MT certified, more would be possible, if demand is communicated and clearly specified

# European Consumers want GM-free Food

Eurobarometer surveys conducted in the EU within the last ten years show

- A majority of Europeans are opposed to GM food
- They say GM food should not be encouraged, because it is not useful, is morally questionable and a risk for society
- Even if reasons for buying GM food are offered, such as less pesticide residues and better taste, more Europeans say, they would not buy GM food
- Reasons such as GM food is approved by the relevant authorities or GM food may be cheaper are not convincing
- Lack of information about GMOs only partly explains high level of objection

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm)

## European Consumers want GM-free Food

Recent polls in Germany (April/May 2009)\*:

- 78 % reject GM food even if cheaper
- 85 % don't want animals to be fed with GM feed
- 78 % say GM-free label „ohne Gentechnik“ makes sense
- 73 % say they would buy products labelled GM-free
- 90 % would like to have binding rules for GM-free label

However

- **EU Food and Feed Regulation 1829/2003** does not cover animal produce
- Most GMOs and GM products are used as feed

European Consumers don't have freedom of choice when it comes to products such as meat, milk, and eggs, derived from animals that are fed with GMOs

\* Source: forsa (Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung und statistische Analysen GmbH)

## Regulations on Voluntary GM-free Labelling of Food in EU Member States

- **Austria 2007, Austrian Food Codex „Gentechnik-frei“ (GM-free)**
- **Germany 2008, Regulation „Ohne Gentechnik“ (without genetic modification)**
- **France 2009 „Nourri sans OGM“ (fed without GMOs) – non-GM feeding programme in Brittany**

## European Parliament demanded in its Resolution on Novel Foods on 25/03/2009

### Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation – amending act  
Article 7 – paragraph 2 e 2e.

***Products produced from animals fed with genetically modified feeding stuffs must be labelled with the words "produced from animals fed with genetically modified feeding stuffs".***

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2009-0171&format=XML&language=EN>

# GM-free Labelled Products on the Market

## Austria

Meat, e.g. chicken, beef, pork (17)

- Ham, sausages (23)
- Fish (5)
- Eggs (12)
- Milk and cheese (> 90)
- Milk products, e.g. yogurt, butter, cream (71)
- Sweets and icecream (18)
- Soy products (35)
- Bread, rolls, cookies (37)
- Noodles (13)

More than 600 products, many labeled products are organic

<http://www.gentechnikfrei.at/>





# GM-free Labelled Products on the Market

## France, Brittany

Second edition of consumer guide 2009

„consommer sans OGM en Bretagne“

58 brands

180 producers

143 sales outlets

Meat, sausages, milk, cheese, yogurt, cream, butter,  
desserts, eggs, farmed fish,

<http://www.consommersansogmenbretagne.org/>



Référencé dans le  
**Guide 2009**  
consommer  
**SANS OGM**  
en Bretagne

[www.consommersansogmenbretagne.org](http://www.consommersansogmenbretagne.org)



## German Law on GM-free Label for Food produced from Animals fed without GMOs

Effective since May 2008 - Only label „ohne Gentechnik“ allowed

Provisions:

- **Feed must not be labelled to contain/consist of GMOs, according to EU Food and Feed Regulation 1829/2003, Article 24,25**
- **Feed may contain vitamins, amino acids etc produced by GM microorganisms (GMM), use of GM pharmaceuticals is allowed**
- **Animals have to be fed GM-free for a certain time**
  
- **Food ingredients must be GM-free (0.1 % technical threshold)**
- **Food additives/vitamins must not be produced by GMM**
  
- **Audit and certification of products and processes recommended**

**„Anlage  
(zu § 3a Abs. 4 Satz 2)**

**Zeitraum vor Gewinnung  
des Lebensmittels, innerhalb  
dessen eine Verfütterung von genetisch  
veränderten Futtermitteln unzulässig ist**

| lfd. Nr. | Tierart   | Zeitraum   |
|----------|---|--|
| 1        | bei Equiden und Rindern (einschließlich Bubalus und Bison-Arten) für die Fleischerzeugung | zwölf Monate und auf jeden Fall mindestens drei Viertel ihres Lebens |
| 2        | bei kleinen Wiederkäuern  | sechs Monate   |
| 3        | bei Schweinen   | vier Monate  |
| 4        | bei milchproduzierenden Tieren  | drei Monate  |
| 5        | bei Geflügel für die Fleischerzeugung, das eingestallt wurde, bevor es drei Tage alt war  | zehn Wochen  |
| 6        | bei Geflügel für die Eierzeugung  | sechs Wochen“.   |

**Weeks/months that animals must  
be fed without GM feed**

**Cattle for  
meat  
production**      **12 months, at least  
three quarters of their  
lifespan**

**Small ruminants**      **six months**

**Pigs**      **four months**

**Dairy animals**      **three months**

**Poultry for  
meat production**      **ten weeks**

**Poultry for  
egg production**      **six weeks**

## After one Year Various Labelled Products are on the Market in Germany

„ohne Gentechnik“ products offered by increasing number of companies:

- Meat (chicken, beef, pork, lamb)
- Milk, yogurt, cream
- Desserts, noodles, soy products
- Sweet corn, cornflakes, polenta

([www.vzh.de](http://www.vzh.de))

Although all organic products are produced without GMOs, they may not carry GM-free label

Companies communicate: Farmers switch to certified non-GM soy and corn and to feed grown in Europe, e.g. grass, oilseed rape, corn

Discussion about low milk price: Dairy farmers achieve better price for milk from animals raised without GMOs



## Activities of Food Companies and Retail Chains

More labeled products coming soon?

Quite a number of companies is interested in labelling their products

Most retail chains are still reluctant

## Activities of Environmental Organisations:

BUND campaign to convince  
retail chains to label their products

„Ohne Gentechnik“

Greenpeace Germany released a  
new consumer guide for GM-free  
shopping

Aus Liebe zur Natur.



Darf im Supermarkt nicht fehlen:

Der neue Ratgeber  
für gentechnik-  
freien Genuss



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Thank you for your Attention!