

**Question for written answer P-010190/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Opportunities for Member States to ban GMOs

The former Commission introduced legislation enabling Member States to impose a ban on the cultivation of GMO crops themselves. Another proposal is currently being considered which would enable Member States to ban the import of GMO foodstuffs or feed.

However, a memorandum from the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries to the Danish Parliament states that the EU legislation is effectively unusable in practice. The assessments by health professionals which are needed in order for a ban to be imposed may not be in conflict with the assessments from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). All GMOs have to undergo health approval by from EFSA before they are permitted in Europe.

This means, according to the Danish ministry, that any national self-determination is effectively inoperative, even where EU legislation is proposed to the contrary.

In connection with the earlier legislation, the Member States expressed concern about whether they would receive backing from the EU in the event of complaints to the WTO.

Does the Commission agree with the Danish Food Ministry's assessment?

What significance does this assessment have for Member States' opportunities to deal with any cases before the WTO?

What does the Commission propose to do about this set of problems?