EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL - INTERNAL POLICIES
Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

NOTICE to MEMBERS

Oral Question no. 11/6/2007 by Ms Satu Hassi

Pursuant to Rule 187 of the Rules of Procedure, please find below an oral question to the Commission.

Subject: On the Authorisation of GM maize variety MON 863 as food, food ingredient or feed

The toxicological tests of the genetically modified corn variety MON 863, owned by the seed company MONSANTO, have recently been reviewed by the independent research institute CRIIGEN. The scientists come to the conclusion that the GM corn variety could bear severe health risks and claim to have found serious weaknesses in the reporting of damages to rats including the underestimation of various abnormal effects on the liver, kidneys, blood, and level of hormones, which could carry severe health risks.

Which consequences will the Commission take from these alarming analyses? Will the Commission apply the precautionary principle and withdraw the authorisations for this genetically modified corn variety?

Which consequences will the Commission take from the failure of EFSA to thoroughly assess the toxicological studies presented in the authorisation procedure? When will the Commission initiate the reform of EFSA required by the Environment Council conclusions from June 2006?

27 March 2007