

Petition 0436/2010 by Mr. Brian John (British), on formal protest against the Commission draft regulation on implementing rules concerning the applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations No (EC) 641/2004 and (EC) No 1981/2006

The petitioner protests against the lack of transparency which, in his opinion, would surround the presentation by the Commission of the draft regulation on implementing rules concerning the applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Regulations No (EC) 641/2004 and (EC) No 1981/2006. According to the petitioner, the document was submitted to the WTO under its conformity assessment procedure without any prior public consultation. The petitioner maintains that the draft regulation, if approved, would speed up the regulatory/approval process for genetically modified food and feed to the benefit of multinational corporations. He claims that it would pay scant regard to the safety of animals and human beings or to the protection of environment and would be a further move away from sound, independent science and evidence-based policy towards the formal acceptance of a ruling hypothesis, namely that genetically modified crops and food are harmless. He believes that the Commission has exceeded its implementing powers and calls on the European Parliament to take position and to insist upon the need for an extended period of consultation before any decision is taken on the draft regulation.

Information

- The petitioner has already submitted Petition 0813/2008 on alleged breaches of the general principles governing the activity of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) in connection with the examination of the applications for Genetically Modified foods.

Recommendations

- Declare admissible;
- ask the Commission for information;
- forward the petition for comments to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety;