

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6455/07  
by Anne Ferreira (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Discovery in France of a field of unauthorised Bt11 genetically modified maize

A field of Bt11 genetically modified maize has recently been discovered quite by chance in France, on the territory of a district in Ille-et-Villaine (Brittany).

The growing of that crop is banned in the EU and imports thereof have not been permitted since 2005.

The discovery that this unauthorised GMO is being grown follows on from the discovery in 2007 of a number of cases in which unauthorised GMOs were imported into the EU.

Although the genetically modified maize in question is the subject of a request for Community authorisation which is currently under consideration, the fact that it has been found growing once again raises the question of how to monitor GMO products (ahead of the question of the added value of GMOs in agriculture).

What action is the Commission planning to take with a view to remedying these shortcomings in the monitoring process?

In general terms the procedure for considering the current request for Community authorisation of the GMO in question reveals a problem caused by the fact that evaluation is carried out by a variety of authorities. The Community evaluation procedure was criticised by the Council in spring 2006 and the Commission undertook to revise it. Will the Commission say what changes have been made to the evaluation procedure?

What is the Commission intending to do in relation to this specific discovery of illegal GMO-growing in France, given that it poses a high level of risk to the environment?

Has the Commission been informed of other illegal crops within EU Member States? If so, which GMOs are involved?