Question for oral answer O-000166/2012
to the Commission
Rule 115
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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Subject: New study questions safety of GMOs for human and animal health

A new scientific paper, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology* entitled 'Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize', by Séralini et al., details a number of disturbing health findings that show how entirely inadequate industry testing of GMOs is.

The results are extremely worrying: increased mortality in all groups of rats submitted to the GMO and/or herbicide, an increase in occurrence of kidney and liver disease and development of large tumours, particularly in females. These effects seem to appear at the end of four months, which completely invalidates the safety findings from experiments made by manufacturers for periods up to three months only, whereas this study is the first one ever made over two years.

There are two GMOs that are allowed to be grown in Europe (GMO maize MON810 and Amflora GMO potatoes) and more than 40 GMOs allowed for import and use as food or feed, including NK603 (the one in the study) and seven others with the NK603 gene.

What does the Commission intend to do to take the results of this study into account when defining the risk assessment of GMOs? Does the Commission recognise that a mandatory three-month feeding study is not sufficient to monitor possible long-term effects?

What urgent measures is the Commission going to take to prevent animals and consumers ingesting GMOs until new safety measures are in place?

In the longer term, how is the Commission going to ensure that the responsible agencies in charge of assessing the safety of GMOs are truly independent from the biotech industry that has already launched a concerted attack on this publication, as it has systematically done for every study that questions the safety of GMOs?

Tabled: 28.9.2012
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