

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6624/08
by Magor Imre Csibi (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: 'GM free' labelling

Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003¹ laid down rules on labelling foodstuffs that contain GM derivatives. There is no special requirement to mention on labels the absence or presence of chance traces of less than 0.9% of permitted GMOs. In its report of 25 October 2006 on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (COM(2006)0626), the Commission said that 'for these foods, a GM free labelling cannot be excluded a priori'; in fact the Commission leaves Member States free to decide on rules for 'GM free' labelling. Finally, Community legislation does not currently include any provisions on labelling of products from animals fed on GMOs.

In Germany, legislation has recently been passed allowing, under very strict conditions, animal products (meat, dairy, egg products, etc.) to be labelled with the words "*ohne Gentechnik*"; this has been done in accordance with legislation governing labelling in the European Union. In some other Member States such labelling is allowed by a law, a doctrine, or common practice. Conversely, several Member States, without passing laws in this respect, refuse to allow this information to be given.

I would like to know the Commission's opinion on the fact that German products labelled in this way may be sold in all the other Member States, including those countries where 'GM free' labelling is not permitted?

Furthermore, these differences in legislation may well restrict the free movement of goods. This may equally constitute a hindrance to free competition between European operators, as the operators are unable to use the same means to make clear the specific merits of their products. How does the Commission intend to resolve these problems, which touch on the founding principles of the European Union?

¹ OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 1.