WRITTEN QUESTION P-1672/09
by Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Risk assessment studies on GMO maize varieties

The following statement has been submitted by 26 leading corn insect scientists working at public research institutions located in 16 corn-producing states. All of the scientists have been active participants in the Regional Research Projects NCCC-46 'Development, Optimization, and Delivery of Management Strategies for Corn Rootworms and Other Below-ground Insect Pests of Maize' and/or related projects with corn insect pests.

'Technology/stewardship agreements required for the purchase of genetically modified seed explicitly prohibit research. These agreements inhibit public scientists from pursuing their mandated role on behalf of the public good unless the research is approved by industry. As a result of restricted access, no truly independent research can be legally conducted on many critical questions regarding the technology, its performance, its management implications, IRM, and its interactions with insect biology. Consequently, data flowing to an EPA Scientific Advisory Panel from the public sector is unduly limited.'
http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=090000648084de39

1. Is the Commission aware of any independent risk assessment studies and other scientific research on the performance and impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMO), in particular on the maize varieties:
   (a) Bt 11
   (b) DAS 1507 ?
   'Independent' in this case being defined as not financed or commissioned by any of the applicants or patent holders involved in these GM events.

2. If such studies exist, can the Commission identify the terms and conditions under which the GM material has been provided to the scientists?

3. What have been the research questions on these studies, what are their results, where have they been published?

4. Is the Commission aware of the letter recently signed by 26 eminent US entomologists, issued to the US Environmental Protection Agency? Can the Commission clarify whether the access to GM material for scientists in Europe is affected by the same restrictions described in this letter?