

**Question for written answer P-012662/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Anne Delvaux (PPE)

Subject: Pioneer's application for GM maize 1507 to be authorised for cultivation

Genetically modified maize 1507 was developed by the American company Pioneer to be resistant to certain harmful insect larvae, such as that of the European corn borer. This type of maize is currently authorised in the EU for use as food and feed, but not for cultivation. In 2001, Pioneer submitted an application for maize 1507 to be authorised for cultivation under Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

On 18 November 2011, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) updated its opinion of 19 October 2011 on the environmental safety of GM maize 1507 (reference: EFSA Journal 2011; 9(11): 2429 [73 pp.]), acknowledging that 'in certain cultivation conditions, some species of highly sensitive non-target butterflies and moths may be at risk when exposed to maize 1507 pollen'. In the same opinion, the EFSA also acknowledged that it had not considered the potential risks linked to the tolerance of maize 1507 to herbicides, such as glufosinate-ammonium, and thus called on Pioneer to clarify its post-market monitoring plan designed to limit the potential adverse effects on the environment of the cultivation of GM maize 1507. On that basis, the Commission asked Pioneer to revise its application for authorisation, but the American company simply refused!

On 6 November 2013, in the wake of the action for failure to act initiated by Pioneer against the Commission and the judgment (Case T-164/10) handed down on 26 September 2013, the Commission 'requested a discussion with Member States at the next Environment Council', to be held on 13 December 2013.

In other words, in proposing to authorise the cultivation of maize 1507 the Commission is disregarding its own conclusions regarding the potential adverse impact on the environment and in effect is authorising the cultivation of a GMO on the basis of partial risk assessment. How does the European executive justify this attitude, which flies in the face of the precautionary principle (Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and the concerns of a majority of Europeans (the 2010 Eurobarometer survey showed that 61 % of Europeans were wary of GMOs)? Bearing in mind the risks acknowledged by the EFSA, why has the Commission not insisted that Pioneer modify its application for authorisation?