



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/9/2004

GAIN Report Number: E34057

EU-25

Biotechnology

Mon 810 Biotech Corn Enters EU Common Catalogue of Seed Varieties

2004

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Report Highlights:

On September 8, the EU Commission approved the inscription of 17 varieties of Monsanto's biotech corn (MON 810) into the EU common catalogue for seeds. Seed of varieties in the common catalogue can be marketed in the entire EU, whereas those in the national catalogues can only be marketed in the country concerned. The inscription of the MON 810 varieties will be the first time biotech varieties will be inscribed in the common catalogue. Farmers throughout the EU-25 will now be able to buy and produce the MON 810 varieties.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

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Mon 810 corn has been approved in the EU since 1998. 17 varieties of corn derived from MON 810 are inscribed in national catalogues: 6 in France and 11 in Spain. Typically, seeds entering the national catalogue are immediately entered into the EU common catalogue. However, a number of member states attempted to block this procedure, insisting that the Commission first develop labeling legislation for biotech seeds establishing maximum thresholds for the adventitious presence (AP) of biotech seed commingled with conventional and organic seed.

Yesterday the College of Commissioners had also intended to discuss a seed labeling proposal, but this item was removed from the agenda due to continued disagreements among the different directorate generals (DG). DG Environment and DG Agriculture continue to press for a maximum AP of 0.3 percent for corn whereas DG Health and Consumer Protection reportedly favors 0.5 percent. The Commission will now wait for the results of a study to determine the economic impact of different thresholds on farmers and seed producers before taking any further action. This means that the proposal will likely not be taken up again until the new Commission convenes on November 1, 2004.

For further information, please see the link below.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1083&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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E23233	Safe as Conventional Corn	12/8/03
E23231	European Food Safety Authority	12/8/03
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