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Portugal

Biotechnology

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Report Highlights:

The Portuguese Council of Ministers has passed a new decree creating a National Food Safety Agency. Once signed into law by the nation's President, the new agency will begin playing a lead role in, among other things, establishing/reestablishing national policies and attitudes towards genetically modified organisms.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Madrid [SP1]
[PO]

THE GOP INSTITUTES NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

The Portuguese Council of Ministers passed a new decree establishing the Portuguese Food Safety Agency (APSA for its initials in Portuguese) on September 2, 2004. The decree will become effective after being signed by the President, and published in the Official Gazette.

APSA will have a high profile among Portuguese regulatory agencies, with its director reporting to the equivalent of the Secretary of State. It will replace an interim food safety agency established four years ago, and will be responsible for scientific risk assessment of products entering the food chain, dissemination of food-risk information, and representation of Portuguese interests, including genetically modified organism concerns, to the European Food Safety Agency.