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Germany

Biotechnology

German Genetech Law Expected to Be Passed 2004

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Report Highlights:

Germany's new Genetech law on GMO liability and coexistence is expected to be passed into law by the Bundestag on/about November 5, 2004, overruling an anticipated rejection by the Bundesrat.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

The joint Bundesrat/Bundestag Committee discussing Germany's new Genetech law was unable to agree on any changes to the proposed law. Therefore, a simple majority of the Bundesrat (controlled by the opposition parties) is expected to vote against this proposal on November 5. Since this portion of Germany's Genetech law does not affect the German Laender (states) directly, any action taken on it by the Bundesrat, which represents the Laender, can be overruled by the Bundestag. The Bundesrat will send the proposal back to the Bundestag (controlled by the coalition government), which is expected to pass it into law.

As reported earlier, this German Genetech law on coexistence and liability appears to be biased against the use/planting of biotech varieties. The EU had previously issued a blue letter advising Germany that it viewed the proposed law as biased. Germany's response to the blue letter has been submitted to the EU.