



SAFEGUARDING SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

The Assembly of European Regions, together with Friends of the Earth, supports the Agriculture Commissioners notion of an EU framework for the coexistence of conventional, organic and genetically modified farming. We believe this is necessary before genetically modified crops are grown on a wide scale.

We invite all participants of the *Safeguarding Sustainable European Agriculture* conference to support calls for EU legislation to introduce compulsory minimum coexistence standards. We believe that any such legislation should be based on the following principles:

- 1- To protect the environment, agricultural biodiversity and nature protected areas on the basis of the precautionary principle
- 2- To enable proper risk management (after the initial risk assessment), including emergency recall measures if necessary
- 3- To protect human and animal health
- 4- To ensure the preservation and further development of non-GMO agriculture, in particular organic and traditional agriculture, and products of designated origin in Europe
- 5- To avoid economic damage to farmers, beekeepers and food manufacturers
- 6- To establish an EU wide GMO liability scheme on the basis of the polluter pays principle that covers environmental damage, compensation in the event that conventional and organic crops are contaminated, costs of an eventual recall and any other financial damages to farmers, breeders and processors caused by the cultivation of GMO crops.
- 7- To protect the right to choose of consumers, farmers and regions
- 8- To allow regions to determine their own agricultural development strategy, including the preservation and development of regionally adapted genetic resources and the right to prohibit GMO cultivation.
- 9- To achieve minimum standards and regulations for cross-border areas
- 10- To guarantee a GMO free seed supply and EU wide standards for seed labelling at the practical detection limit

Brussels, 17 May 2005

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, support the calls for EU legislation on coexistence based on the above principles.

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