



# The position of the European organic farming movement and experience of GM contamination

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## Organic movement position on GM contamination

- we have zero acceptance of GM contamination
- 0.9% GM does not equal zero, does not mean non-GM!
- widespread GM crops - routine contamination inevitable
- we do not believe contamination can be stabilised
- Commission proposal to simply allow contamination in organic food is totally inadequate and inappropriate
- the problem is the **presence** of GM contamination
- organic sector does its part (process control), but the problem is caused by the GM sector/approval of GMOs!

## Organic sector process approach to controlling contamination

- organic process approach, not output-based controls
- EU regulation - the use of GMOs is prohibited
- standards and certifier implementation, eg: certificates from suppliers, farm separation distances, hazard analysis and control for processors
- random testing - a complementary approach

## Organic movement position on 'co-existence'

- the burden must not, and cannot, be on the organic sector!
- no different contamination threshold for organic farming

Instead:

- 0.1% threshold for **all** seed
- prohibition on GMOs in agriculture (ideal), or mandatory EU-wide controls for all GM producers
- strict liability and compensation to protect non-GM farmers

## GM contamination experiences

- contamination of organic maize in Spain
- contamination of organic soya in UK
- oilseed rape contamination ubiquitous in Canada - no organic production