



The voice of the European food and drink industry

**"Co-existence
The expectations of the
food and drinks industries«
Vienna, 4 – 6 April 2006**



CIAA Role and Mission

- Represents the interests of the food and drink industries producing in the EU
- Contributes to the creation of the most favourable economic and legislative environment possible for the development of the food and drink industry
- Promotes the image of a dynamic and responsible industry
- The voice of the European food and drink industry

CIAA Members

- **COUNTRIES**
 - 24 National food industry federations
 - Including 2 observers from Norway and Romania
- **SECTORS**
 - 32 European Sector Associations
- **COMPANIES**
 - 21 major companies producing in the EU



The F&D industry in Europe

- Number One manufacturing industry in Europe
 - 13% of total EU manufacturing production value,
 - 11% of jobs in manufacturing
- Close to € 800 billion of sales
- More than 4 million employees
- € 45 billion in exports
- Purchases and transforms 70% of European agricultural production
- A sector dominated by SMEs (90% of food companies have less than 250 employees)



CIAA Priorities

- Increase consumer confidence in the food and drink industry
- Guarantee the smooth functioning of the internal market through a competitive regulatory framework and an increase in self-/co-regulation for the food and drink industry
- Strengthen food and drink industry competitiveness to meet the challenges of globalisation, on EU and world markets
- Manage sustainable development through enhanced competitiveness and more responsible corporate practices



Co-existence – Has the Food and Drink Industry reasons to be concerned?

“Co-existence refers to the ability of farmers to make a practical choice between conventional, organic and GM crop production, in compliance with the legal obligations for labelling and/or purity standards.”

Food industry considerations

- Offer of food products depending on consumer demands
- Therefore, raw material of either conventional, organic or GMO origin is used
 - current consumer demands - a preference for non-GMO derived products.
- Food companies sourcing non-GM derived raw material, containing less than 0.9% adventitious contamination of GMOs



Which systems need to be in put place?

- Raw material suppliers to put in place identity preservation systems or any system to guarantee the conventional origin of the product
 - Systems are complicated
 - Sometimes costly to be maintained



Legal requirements

- GM crops authorised in the EU have undergone a scientific evaluation
- GM cultivation - not a safety issue; rather questions of:
 - Economic impact
 - Freedom of choice
- The European Commission confirms that the goal of coexistence measures is to allow non-GM crops to be marketed without economic loss that could potentially result from the adventitious presence of GM material above the labelling threshold of 0.9%.
- To achieve this aim it is necessary to:
 - Develop seed legislation to consider GMO thresholds
 - Develop official co-existence procedures

CIAA Recommendation (1)

- CIAA - no concern with environmental and/or health aspects
- CIAA - concerned with the economic impact of commingling GMO crops with conventional crops



CIAA Recommendation (2)

- Co-existence of the different farming sectors is the goal
 - Co-existence legislation to contribute to sustainable production systems over the longer term
- European farmer, food industry, and consumers to have the freedom to choose, therefore co-existence
 - Is ultimately about ensuring consumers' choice
 - Presupposes that all farmers are free to grow the crop they want



CIAA Recommendation (3)

- Currently conventional production sectors and organic production sectors, with an economic system that functions, in place.
- Measures should be taken to ensure that the introduction of GMOs does not jeopardise this balance and limit:
 - Both the producer's choice of farming methods,
 - The industry raw material demands, and
 - Consumer's choice of food products



CIAA Recommendation (4)

- 100% purity in agricultural production is not realistic
- The adventitious mixing of different types of crops (e.g. conventional and organic) is unavoidable, but it should be minimised by the:
 - Implementation of good growing, harvesting and storage practices and
 - Setting of workable thresholds for cross-contamination
- Coexistence between crops is not a new issue, but it need to be:
 - Extended to GM production, based on the development of specific practices and tools



CIAA Recommendation (5)

- Co-existence practices need to be adapted to the GMO labelling legislation; the 0.9% GM labelling threshold in the final products or ingredients
 - Any thresholds in the production chain to respect this threshold
 - Thresholds for adventitious contamination of seeds – to be set to comply with the thresholds for the final food ingredients
 - Setting of seed threshold is a must

CIAA Recommendation (6)

- Risks of adventitious presence of GMOs – to be minimised, therefore:
 - To include storage, transport and distribution throughout the supply chain
 - Implementation of good practices

CIAA Recommendation (7)

- Establishment of an EU framework legislation on co-existence, with
 - Room for national flexibility to adapt to the national conditions
- The absence of a framework leaves room for the changing of standards which might
 - Hamper the internal market



CIAA Recommendation (8)

- Establishment of clear liability rules to compensate for any damage which could appear in the food chain

Conclusions

- The food and drink industry is prepared to deliver food products using raw material of either conventional, organic or GMO origin
- It is important to maintain the characteristics of different raw materials
- CIAA - in favour of a European framework legislation on co-existence, leaving sufficient room for national derogations, without hampering the internal market
- Need for the establishment of reasonable seed GMO thresholds



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Where to find more information about CIAA



CIAA Public Website
<http://www.ciaa.be>

Access to news and positions



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION