

To the attention of: Brussels, November 25 2002
Mrs Eva Hellsten,
Head of the Chemicals Unit,
Environment DG,
European Commission, Office BU-5, 02/01,
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Concerning: Response to the EU communication: "Towards a thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides" (July 01, 2002)

Dear Mrs. Hellsten,

Being a consumer and a scientist, I was impressed by a paper produced by InterNutrition based on published scientific papers, which presents a summary of the facts that must be taken into consideration when comparing organic, conventional and genetic engineering farming strategies.

I strongly believe the three ways of farming should coexist and that the consumer should be able to choose their preferred method of food production.

I would like to have the opportunity in Europe to buy food based on biotechnology applied to agriculture. Today, this is not the case; we only have organic and conventional based products.

This article shows that from agronomic, health and environmental viewpoints, conventional, organic and genetic engineering farming methods should coexist. The different strategies help move towards a more sustainable agriculture. Only a flexible and specific combination of all useful approaches will enable the existing potential to be fully exploited. A unilateral ban on transgenic breeding methods cannot be scientifically justified. It would be incomprehensible and short-sighted not to benefit from these new opportunities in order to overcome unsolved agricultural problems.

I am really convinced about the benefits of each farming strategy and the coexistence of the different farming practices will help to improve the environment we live in.

You will find attached the Swiss article by InterNutrition.

Kind regards,

Brigitte Coyette
18, rue pont des brebis
1325 Chaumont- Gistoux