

European Commission  
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## Evaluation of the EU legislative framework in the field of GM food and feed

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### **September Progress Report**

*Submitted by:*

***Food Chain Evaluation Consortium (FCEC)***

*Civic Consulting - Agra CEAS Consulting -*

*Van Dijk Management Consultants - Arcadia International*

***Project Leader: Agra CEAS Consulting***

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## **1. Introduction**

DG SANCO launched this evaluation of the EU legislative framework in the field of genetically modified (GM) food and feed in early June 2009. This refers in particular to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on GM food and feed<sup>1</sup>, as complemented by Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003<sup>2</sup> on GMO traceability and labelling and other relevant accompanying legislation<sup>3</sup>, which together replace previous legislation<sup>4</sup>.

This study is led by Agra CEAS Consulting of the Food Chain Evaluation Consortium (FCEC), with inputs from Arcadia International and Civic Consulting, in the context of the ongoing Evaluation Framework Contract for Lot 3 (Food Chain).

This short report sets out progress made since the submission and acceptance of the August Progress Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1839/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC.

<sup>3</sup> In particular: Commission Regulation (EC) No 641/2004 of 6 April 2004 on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the application for the authorisation of new MG food and feed, the notification of existing products and adventitious or technically unavoidable presence of GM material which has benefited from a favourable risk evaluation; and Commission Regulation (EC) No 65/2004 of 14 January 2004 establishing a system for the development and assignment of unique identifiers for genetically modified organisms.

<sup>4</sup> Previously GM foods were regulated under the Novel Food Regulation 258/97, whilst GM feeds were partially regulated under Directive 2001/18 on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

## **2. Progress since submission of the August Progress Report**

### **2.1. Competent Authority and stakeholder surveys**

#### **2.1.1. Contact information**

Contacts for the stakeholder survey were received from a number of Competent Authorities and stakeholders. A database containing contact details for more than 600 organisations has been constructed. It is anticipated that DG SANCO will release information about the stakeholder survey in their news email, distributed daily, to ensure that as many stakeholders as possible with an interest in this policy area are able to respond.

Any other relevant contacts which are drawn to our attention whilst the survey is on-going will also be sent an invitation to participate.

#### **2.1.2. Questionnaires and survey**

The survey of Competent Authorities was launched on 18 September, 2009 with a deadline of 28 October, 2009. The questionnaire is available in English, French and German with replies possible in these languages plus Spanish, Italian and Polish.

The questionnaire for use in the survey of stakeholders has been approved by the Commission, converted into an on-line format, translated into French and German and launched to 601 identified contacts on 25 September, 2009. A number of further invitations to participate were sent to organisations where it had not been possible to identify the relevant individual. These invitations requested that the organisation identify an individual to take responsibility for completing the questionnaire if this is of interest to them. Again replies will also be accepted in Spanish, Italian and Polish. The deadline for this survey is 30 October, 2009.

### **2.2. Literature review**

Our database of relevant literature has been added to with articles, publications, etc. which have been brought to our attention.

### 3. Project work plan

The evaluation is proceeding in line with the timetable set out in the Inception Report. The key milestones are set out as follows:

- **Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders:** from mid-October, 2009.
- **Case studies:** from late-October, 2009.
- **Submission of Interim Report:** Winter 2009/2010.
- **Stakeholder conference:** January/February, 2010.
- **Draft Final Report:** Spring 2010.
- **Final Report:** Early summer 2010.
- **Dissemination:** Summer 2010.

A further brief progress report will be submitted in October.