



# **GMOs:** **Commission's proposal on** **Food / Feed**

**Brussels**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

## ➤ Review of decision making process of genetically modified organisms

The European Commission was elected on the basis of the set of Political guidelines it presented to the European Parliament. The Commission made a commitment to review the current legislation on the authorisations of GMOs and included it in its 2015 Work Programme.

- New legislation on **cultivation** entered into force this month : Member States may now prohibit / restrict cultivation of authorized GMOs



European  
Commission

## Why today's proposal :

- **EU citizens remain largely divided over the GM issue : 61% of EU disagree that "GM food is safe"; less than a third believes that "GM Food is good for the economy" (2010 Eurobarometer)**
- **"No opinion" : systematic outcome of Member States' votes in Standing and Appeal Committees which decide on approval/rejection of GMOs**
- **Commission adopts GMOs authorization for placing on the market without the support of Member States**

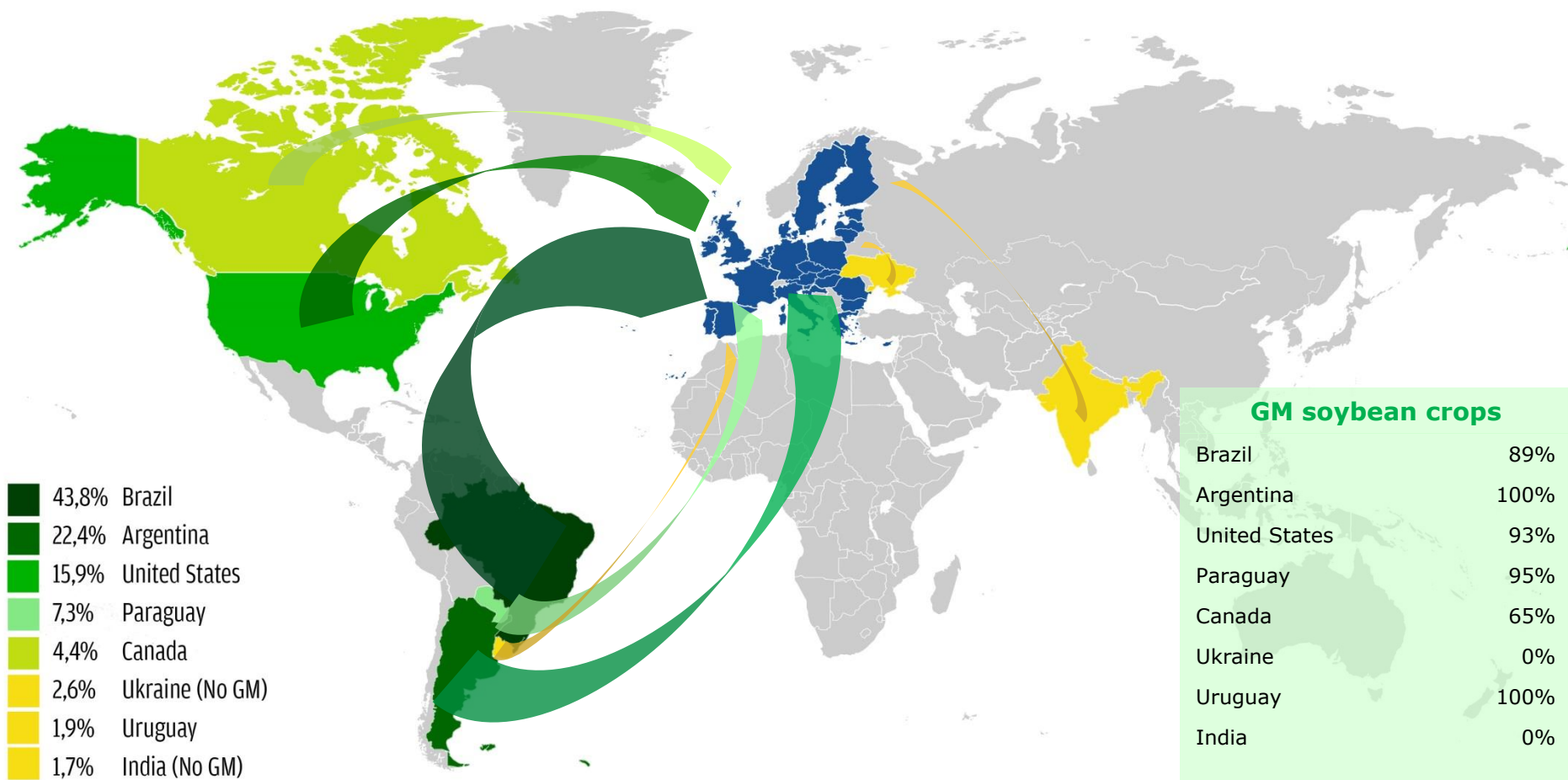
## Economic dimension :

- **All Member States have important livestock production.**
- **Soymeal is the main source of proteins for animals feeding.**
- **EU highly dependent on third countries for soymeal:**
  - **All MS** import or use soymeal.
  - **32 million tonnes** of soybean and soymeal imported in 2013: **96% of EU Consumption**
  - **Almost 90% of imported soymeal is GM.**



European  
Commission

# Export Soybean and Soymeal to the EU in 2013: 32 million tons





European  
Commission

# What is the Commission proposing?



## **Authorization system will not change :**

- **Risk assessment : European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) & Member States' agencies will still be in charge.**
  
- **Member States – via the Comitology procedure (Standing & Appeal Committees) – will still be consulted – and vote – on placing on the market of GM Food / Feed.**

## After approval of a GM Food / Feed:

- **Member State to be allowed to opt out on the use of GM food/feed**
- **Measures put forward by Member States cannot be justified by reasons which conflict with risk assessment carried out by EFSA**

## What's next ?:

- **Ordinary legislative proposal : text to be sent to Council and European Parliament**