

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH**

### **SECTION “GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD AND FEED AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK”**

#### **Report of the extraordinary meetings of 12 and 15 April 2005**

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#### **Approval of a draft Commission decision on emergency measures regarding the non authorised genetically modified organism “Bt 10” in maize products (SANCO/1155/2005)**

The meeting was convened following the preliminary discussion which took place in a previous extraordinary meeting of the SCOFCAH on 12 April 2005. As explicitly discussed during the first meeting, the Commission has proposed a draft decision to react to the inadvertent release of the genetically modified maize “Bt 10”. In particular, the decision aims to guarantee that no maize products produced from the genetically modified organism “Bt 10” be placed on the Community market.

The draft decision applies to corn gluten feed (within CN code 2309 9020) and to brewers grains (within CN code 2303 3000) containing or produced from genetically modified maize.

The draft decision foresees that Member States shall allow the first placing on the market of the above-referred products only where accompanied by an original analytical report based on a suitable and validated method for the event-specific detection of genetically modified maize “Bt10”, issued by an accredited laboratory and demonstrating that the product does not contain “Bt10” maize or feed produced from “Bt10” maize.

The draft decision also provides that Member States have to take all the appropriate measures to verify the absence of “Bt10” maize in products already on the market.

Further to some Member States proposals it has been agreed that the obligation should apply also to split consignments. It has also been agreed that the decision would have to be reviewed by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2005 at the latest.

Member States appreciated the quick reaction to the inadvertent release and welcomed the draft as effective and proportionate. In particular, they underlined that the draft decision was coherent with the aim of guaranteeing the respect of the EU legislative framework without being more disruptive of international trade than necessary. A number of drafting changes were agreed upon.

At the end of the discussion the draft Commission decision has been approved by the favourable vote of 22 Member States (for a total number of votes of 299 out of 321). Two Member States were not represented. One Member State abstained because, while in favour of the measure, it would have preferred a wider scope.

