



Notification Number: 2012/106/F

decree on the labelling of the presence of genetically modified organisms in batches of seeds.

Date received : 13/02/2012
End of Standstill : Closed
Issue of detailed opinion by : Commission

Message

Message 002

Communication from the Commission - SG(2012) D/5411
Directive 98/34/EC
Translation of the message 001
Notification: 2012/0106/F

No abre el plazo - Nezaahajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - He ce предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201200411.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 002 IND 2012 0106 F EN 13-02-2012 F NOTIF

2. Member State

F

3. Department Responsible

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3. Originating Department

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4. Notification Number

2012/0106/F - C00A

5. Title

decree on the labelling of the presence of genetically modified organisms in batches of seeds.

6. Products Concerned

Batches of conventional seeds containing accidental or technically unavoidable traces of genetically modified seeds.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The draft decree establishes the thresholds for the adventitious presence of genetically modified seeds in batches of conventional seeds.

These thresholds are established plant species by plant species.

Below these thresholds, batches of seeds are exempt from the obligation to bear the label 'contains genetically modified organisms'.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Directive 2001/18/EC makes the labelling 'contains GMOs' compulsory where applicable (Article 21(1)).

Directive 2001/18/EC provides for exemption from this obligation for products presenting accidental or technically unavoidable traces of GMOs, specifying that minimum thresholds must be established (Article 21(2)). However, Community regulations have not hitherto established any threshold for seeds.

Law No 2008-595 of 25 June 2008 on genetically modified organisms transposes Article 21 of Directive 2001/18/EC on matters regarding seeds. It provides for the establishment by decree of thresholds for the adventitious presence of GMOs in batches of conventional seeds, plant species by plant species.

The Decree of 30 January 2012, issued pursuant to Article 1 of the above-mentioned law, sets the thresholds for the maximum presence of GMOs in food ingredients of plant origin permitted to be labelled 'GMO-free'.

It is necessary, therefore, to establish the thresholds for the adventitious presence of GMOs in batches of conventional seeds, upon which respect for 'GMO-free' labelling standards depends, further down the agri-foodstuffs delivery chain.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

References to reference texts: - Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the



deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, in particular Article 21 thereof;
- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed;
- Law No 2008-595 of 25 June 2008 on genetically modified organisms (transposes Article 21 of Directive 2001/18/EC on matters regarding seeds);
- Decree No 2012-128 of 30 January 2012 on the labelling of foodstuffs from production described as 'free from genetically modified organisms' notified 2011/256/F.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

15. Impact assessment

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16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT Aspect

NO - The project has no significant impact on international commerce.

SPS Aspect

No - The project is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure.

Catherine Day
Secrétaire général
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