

Open letter to EU-Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

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President Jean-Claude Juncker
European Commission
Rue de la Loi – Wetstraat 200
B – 1049 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, June-09-2017

Subject: Plea for coherent decision-making in the EU

Dear President Juncker,

All institutions of the European Union should be measured by the way they comply with democratic and legal principles and follow the rules and regulations laid down by the Community itself, i.e. the Member States and the EU-Parliament.

This applies also to the forthcoming decision of the Commission on the approval for commercial cultivation of three genetically modified maize lines (1507, Bt11 and MON810). On 28 March 2017, the representatives of the 28 Member States did not come to an agreement on such approval. According to EU rules, this should lead to the following: The Commission must now take the decision to authorize commercial cultivation of the three maize lines, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2001, Directive 2001/18/EC and Regulation (EC) 1829/2003. Additional justification for the Commission's approval for cultivation of the above-mentioned three genetically modified maize lines is set forth below:

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), responsible for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants has performed a risk assessment of the genetically modified plants. After thorough scientific examination, no risks for human health and to the environment have been identified.
- The EU Commission is obliged to comply with its own regulations. According to the principle of supra-nationality within the European Union, the Member States are standing down from exercising their national sovereignty and jointly carrying it out on a European level. The directives and regulations adopted are obligatory for all

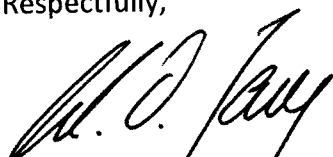
In addition, the principle of legal compliance applies. To prevent arbitrariness the EU system can only work if all Member States adhere to the rules previously agreed by all.

- Such a decision will send a strong signal to such individual Member States that prefer to transfer their responsibility to the EU Commission. In addition, it will respect the decision of the Member States who voted in favor of cultivation.

Those members of the EU who by their voting behavior repeatedly refuse to make clear and binding decisions - knowing that according to the legal regulations the EU Commission is subsequently obliged to make a decision - do not live up to the responsibility assigned to them. Instead, they actually make the procedure both time-consuming and cost-intensive by "hiding" instead of taking responsibility. Such practices, which meanwhile have unfortunately been established and are common regarding genetic modification and herbicides, not only diminish the confidence in the work of the European Union, but are also an expression of disregard for common democratic principles.

We therefore kindly ask you to act according to the democratic principles applicable to all EU members and take a timely decision to authorize the three genetically modified maize varieties.

Respectfully,



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