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Commission shies away from important decisions on GMOs

GMOs

Commenting on today's orientation-debate on GMOs attended by EU commissioners, **Hiltrud Breyer** MEP and consumer-expert for the Greens/EFA group said:

"The constant indecision and the shirking of responsibility within the European Commission are embarrassing. The Commission has failed to do their job regarding risk-management and this is shown by the delay to the decision to ban insect resistant bt-maize variants 1507 and bt11. The Commission decided to send back the files to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which has already proven its incapacity to judge long-term effects.

We welcome the fact that the Commission has not authorised the genetically modified starch potato Amflora, produced by BASF. However, yet again, by sending back the application to EFSA the main problem has not been solved. EFSA has already ignored an argument against the use of Amflora by the European Medicines Agency. The existing conflict can only be solved by the Commission taking a clear position and banning the file by taking the precaution principle seriously and taking into account the missing long-term studies.

The Commission should no longer hide behind EFSA and try to sneak out of its responsibility to make a decision. Sending back these files is a farce and weakens the Commission itself. Consumer and health protection should not be abused by this time-consuming and inefficient process.

The reform of EFSA is long overdue. It is obvious that EFSA has failed to do a proper risk-analysis of GM products and various member states are asking for a reassessment of GM products. The Commission has to eliminate the weaknesses of EFSA in order to ensure that it does not weaken the credibility of the Commission."

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