



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

Brussels,
SANCO/E1/AS/lh (2010) D510360

Dear Ms Geslain-Lanéelle,

Subject: Post Market Environmental Monitoring of Genetically Modified Organisms

I thank you for the letter you sent me on 28 April 2010 following the first visit of Commissioner Dalli to EFSA. Post Market Environmental Monitoring following the authorisation for GM cultivation is a key feature of our legislative framework on GM cultivation and EFSA has clearly its role to play in this respect.

Monitoring of environmental effects is a topic that is primarily the responsibility of risk managers (i.e. Commission and Member States). However, its results have to be analysed by risk assessors. As a consequence, close collaboration between the two parties is necessary.

EFSA is indeed already involved in the ongoing works related to monitoring and I welcome your willingness to be even more involved and to increase EFSA's contribution to the process. As you mention, EFSA has already built and demonstrated its expertise in this field by assessing the monitoring plans proposed by the companies in the framework of the authorisation procedures as well as through the development of the EFSA Post Market Environmental Monitoring guidance.


The reports of the observations gathered through the environmental monitoring plans that have to be provided by companies on a yearly basis are an essential complement to the pre-market safety assessment required by the legislation. I thus concur with you that EFSA should regularly assess the information gathered from this monitoring. In practice, I would ask that EFSA adopts an opinion on each yearly monitoring report related to GM cultivation and on the appropriateness of the methodology of implementation.

Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle
Executive Director
European Food Safety Authority
Largo N. Palli 5/A
I-43100 Parma
ITALY

The Commission will also ask companies to work on a standard general surveillance plan by crop/trait in order to ensure coherent monitoring activities and would appreciate the assistance of EFSA in the assessment of this work as this was the case in the framework of the environment general surveillance plan related to GM food and feed.

Finally, as it is usually the case, the Commission and Member States will request EFSA's assistance in the discussion or possible developments of any legal text dealing with monitoring.

Yours sincerely,



Paola Testori Coggi

Email copy: Mr P. Bergman, Ms K. L'Heureux (EFSA);
Mr E. Poudelet, Mr A. Cusimano, Mr L. Terzi, Mr S. Giraud, Mr M. Valletta, Ms D. André, Mr R. Vanhoorde, Mr M. Walsh,
Ms S. Pelsser, Ms A. Stengel, Mr S. Goux (DG SANCO).