

Resolution on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2629 renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034×1507×MON 88017×59122 and eight of its sub-combinations pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

2024/2834(RSP) - 26/11/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 476 votes to 169, with 14 abstentions, a resolution **objecting** to the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2629 renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034×1507×MON 88017×59122 and eight of its sub-combinations pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

On 7 October 2022, Corteva Agriscience Belgium BV, based in Belgium, on behalf of Corteva Agriscience LLC, based in the United States, and Bayer Agriculture BV, based in Belgium, on behalf of Bayer CropScience LP, based in the United States, jointly submitted an application to the Commission for the renewal of the authorisation of genetically modified maize MON 89034×1507×MON 88017×59122 and eight of its sub-combinations. The EFSA adopted a favourable opinion which was published on 29 April 2024.

Genetically modified maize contains genes conferring **resistance to glyphosate** and produces insecticidal proteins ('Bt toxins').

Parliament highlighted the **lack of assessment of complementary herbicides**. It recalled in this regard that a number of studies show that herbicide-tolerant GM crops result in a higher use of complementary herbicides, in large part because of the emergence of herbicide-tolerant weeds.

Questions remain about whether **glyphosate is carcinogenic**. The European Chemicals Agency concluded in March 2017 that there was no evidence to classify it as such. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as a probable carcinogen for humans.

Furthermore, questions remain concerning Bt toxins and the effects on non-target organisms of the use of genetically modified **Bt crops**.

Parliament stressed the need to **ensure a global level playing field** given the challenge of diverging standards of the Union and its trading partners, and to respect the **EU's international obligations**.

According to Members, authorising the import for food or feed uses of any GM plant which has been made tolerant to herbicides is incoherent with the Union's international commitments under, *inter alia*, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Framework, which includes a global target to reduce the risk of pesticides by at least 50 % by 2030. It is also important to **reduce the dependency** on imported feed.

On a **procedural** note, Parliament recalled that it adopted 38 resolutions objecting to the placing GMOs on the market. Despite its own acknowledgement of the democratic shortcomings, the lack of support from Member States and the objections of Parliament, the Commission continues to authorise GMOs.

On the basis of these considerations, Parliament considered that Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2628 is **not consistent with Union law**, which is to provide the basis for ensuring a high level of protection of human life and health, animal health and welfare, and environmental and consumer interests, in relation to GM food and feed, while ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market.

Therefore, Parliament called on the Commission to:

- **repeal Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2629** and to submit a new draft to the committee;
- ensure **convergence of standards between the Union and its partners** in free trade agreement negotiations, in order to meet Union safety standards;
- **not authorise** herbicide-tolerant GM crops, due to the associated increased use of complementary herbicides and therefore the increased risks to biodiversity, food safety and workers' health;
- deliver, as matter of urgency, on its commitment to come forward with a proposal to ensure that **hazardous chemicals** banned in the Union are not produced for export;
- **take into account the Union's obligations under international agreements**, such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The draft implementing acts should be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining how they uphold the principle of 'do no harm'.