Basic information

2023/2760(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 × T25 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council **Subject** 3.10.09.06 Agro-genetics, GMOs	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety	PIETIKÄINEN Sirpa (EPP)	15/06/2023
	SIDL Günther (S&D)	15/06/2023
	HÄUSLING Martin (Greens /EFA)	15/06/2023
	HAZEKAMP Anja (The Left)	15/06/2023

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/09/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0308/2023	Summary
12/09/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2760(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on implementing act or powers
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 0115-p2-3 Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/12313

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B9-0363/2023	05/09/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0308/2023	12/09/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)558	19/12/2023	

Resolution on the draft Commission implementing decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 × T25 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

2023/2760(RSP) - 12/09/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 427 votes to 175, with 13 abstentions, a resolution **objecting** to the draft Commission implementing authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 × T25 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

On 31 October 2016, Syngenta Crop Protection S.A./N.V, based in Belgium, on behalf of Syngenta Crop Protection AG, based in Switzerland, submitted an application to the national competent authority of Germany for the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients and feed containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 × T25 (the 'GM maize'). The application also covered the placing on the market of products containing or consisting of the GM maize for uses other than food and feed, with the exception of cultivation.

On 30 November 2022, EFSA adopted a favourable opinion in relation to the authorisation of the GM maize.

Lack of assessment of the complementary herbicide

Parliament pointed out that the vast majority of GM crops have been genetically modified so that they are tolerant to one or more 'complementary' herbicides which can be used throughout the cultivation of the GM crop, without the crop dying, as would be the case for a non-herbicide tolerant crop. 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.

Herbicide-tolerant GM crops lock farmers into a weed management system that is largely or wholly dependent on herbicides, and does so by charging a premium for GM seeds that can be justified only if farmers purchasing such seed also spray the complementary herbicide.

The GM maize was developed to confer tolerance to glyphosate-based herbicides and glufosinate-ammonium herbicide.

Parliament stated that assessment of herbicide residues and metabolites found on GM plants is considered outside the remit of the EFSA Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms and is therefore not undertaken as part of the authorisation process for GMOs.

Undemocratic decision-making

Members recalled that the vote on 1 June 2023 of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed delivered no opinion, meaning that the authorisation was not supported by a qualified majority of Member States. The reasons for Member States not supporting authorisations include lack of respect for the precautionary principle in the authorisation process and scientific concerns relating to the risk assessment. The lack of support from Member States and the objections of Parliament means that the Commission continues to authorise GMOs.

Recommendations

On the basis of these considerations, Parliament considered that the Commission's implementing decision is not consistent EU law. Consequently, it called on the Commission to:

- withdraw its draft implementing decision;

- not to 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;

- come forward with a proposal to ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the Union are not produced for export.

Noting that the Commission recognised the need to take sustainability into account when it comes to authorisation decisions on GMOs, Parliament expressed its deep disappointment that the Commission has continued to authorise GMOs for import into the Union, despite ongoing objections by Parliament and a majority of Member States voting against. The Commission is urged to take into account the Union's obligations under international agreements.