

Action 12: GM contamination

What is the content?

Including provisions in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 clarifying:

- that products that are labelled as containing GMO's, can not be labelled as organic;
- that the general labelling thresholds equal the thresholds for the adventitious presence of GMO's for products (other than seed) used in organic farming.

The question of deciding whether specific thresholds for seed used in organic farming need to be set and at what level is still under consideration by the Commission.

What has been done? What was achieved?

The new Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 propose the same general threshold for GMO contamination of max. 0.9 %.

The EU commission clearly stated that in the new regulation in the explanatory note No. 9, that "the aim is to have the lowest possible presence of GMO's in organic products. The existing labelling thresholds represent ceilings which are exclusively linked to the adventitious and technically unavoidable presence of GMO's."

What is planned? What is on the way?

Further details will be in the Commission implementation rules, which still have to be developed – a consultation document was circulated in autumn 2007.

Comments

There is still a controversial debate if the proposals lead to routine contamination, when the general implementation of the coexistence system is not implemented in the EU Member States.

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Should the publication of corrigenda becomes necessary, there will be posted at the project website www.organic-revision.org.

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