



Name
Address
Postal Code-City
Country

Brussels, 5 May 2008

Dear Commissioner [XXX],

We are writing to you on the matter of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) prior to your informal discussion later this week.

In light of changing scientific opinion and the increasing Member State and public opposition, the European Public Health Alliance calls on the Commission to show leadership on this issue. The European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) must be allowed the time and resources to meet the new mandate it has been given on GMOs.

We are concerned that the European Commission is not fulfilling its role as risk manager on the issue of GMOs. EFSA is developing its ability to provide risk assessment in this field by providing a high level scientific opinion but EPHA wants to stress that it is the responsibility of the European Commission to act as the risk manager by balancing the scientific (EFSA), political and public opinion. Therefore we call on the Commission to stand firm in the face of increasing pressure from industry and other global actors to not risk human health before an adequate impact assessment has been undertaken. This is particularly important in the case of pesticide releasing plants.

As you will be aware, there are a number of myths and false expectations perpetuating on GMOs. EPHA is confident that the Commission will recognise and reject these myths that GMOs are our answer to food shortages and poverty. The UN Synthesis Report concludes that genetically engineered crops are not a solution for poverty, hunger nor climate change. In addition to this, we would like to draw your attention to the situation currently in the US, where the patents held by large companies prevent farmers from using seeds from their GM plants. We ask the Commission to think carefully about facilitating this level of crop dependency in Europe.

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EFSA is Europe's risk assessor, the European Commission is our risk manager. We call on you to fulfill your obligations in this process by showing leadership and rejecting the authorisation of plants that neither the Member States nor the public want.

Yours faithfully

Monika Kosinska
Secretary General

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