

European parliament approves new law on planting gm crops

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have passed a new law that will allow EU member states to restrict or ban the cultivation of genetically modified (GM) crops on their own territory, even if this is allowed at EU level. The legislation, originally tabled in 2010, but was then deadlocked for four years due to disagreement between pro- and anti-GMO member states, was informally agreed by Parliament and Council in December, and will come into force in spring of 2015.



Belgian MEP Frédérique Ries, who is steering the legislation through Parliament, said, "this agreement will ensure more flexibility for member states who wish to restrict the cultivation of the GMOS in their territory. It will, moreover, signpost a debate which is far from over between pro- and anti-GMO positions."

MON810 maize is currently the only GM crop cultivated in the EU. The "Amflora" GM potato was banned by the EU General Court in 2013 after an initial green light from the European Commission.

For more information, read <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150109ipr06306/html/parliament-backs-gmo-opt-out-for-eu-member-states>.