

# European Seed Association



## Position

**on the European Parliament's Second Reading on  
Traceability and Labelling of GMOs (Recommendation  
Trakatellis)  
GM food and feed (Recommendation Scheele)**

Brussels, 26/06/2003

### ESA\_03.0184

On 02.07.2003, the European Parliament will vote in second reading on the two proposals for Regulations on the Traceability and Labelling of GMOs (Recommendation Trakatellis) and on the Labelling of GM Food and feed (Recommendation Scheele).

These two reports are crucial for the future of biotechnology in Europe, for the position of the European Union vis-a-vis its trade partners and in particular in view of the WTO panel on the EU's GMO legislation and. Last but not least, in order to finally break the deadlock of the de-facto moratorium on new authorisation for GMOs in Europe.

ESA European Seed Association as head organisation representing the totality of the EU based seed industry is convinced that the lifting of the moratorium is not only precondition to prevent research and development capacities in this important and promising sector fleeing the EU but also for the long awaited setting of thresholds for the adventitious presence of GMOs in seed of conventional plant varieties. Over years, the international exchange of plant genetic material and the trade in seed has suffered from the absence of proper legislation as well as of the political will to address this sensitive subject. Many European seed companies, and the majority of them being small and medium sized enterprises, have encountered loss of revenue and international competitiveness as a result.

ESA therefore urges the Members of the European Parliament to

- Vote in favour of the compromise reached between the institutions on the recommendation on GM food/feed labelling (**Recommendation Scheele**).

ESA thereby states that the compromise reached on the inclusion of an amendment to Directive 2001/18/EC in view of Co-Existence of GM and non-GM production must be interpreted strictly in line with the Commission's own guidelines on Co-Existence.

They may by no means be used to again prolong the existing moratorium or to implement disproportional measures on the use of GM technology in Europe.

- Vote in favour of the Council's Common Position as regards the threshold level of 0.9% for the traceability and labelling of GMOs and to reject all amendments lowering this threshold (**Recommendation Trakatellis**).

Any lowering of the threshold of 0.9% would not only be inconsistent with the provisions of the GM food/feed Regulation but would also prevent the future setting of sustainable thresholds for the adventitious presence of GMOs in conventional seed.