

Keep GMO out of our food!

March for a GMO-free future arrived in Brussels

The march for a GMO-free future (1) arrived in Brussels today. The initiator Joseph Wilhelm, an organic pioneer and farmer as well as the founder of the organic food company Rapunzel, walked a total of 1000 km from Berlin to Brussels, starting at 18 June. He was supported on his journey, by approximately 3000 people.

Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Group (2), welcomed the wanderers today at the Place de la Monnaie in Brussels:

“We applaud the initiators for this creative action to express the need of citizens as well as the GM free and organic sector for a GM-free future. The organic sector wants to continue producing food without GMOs. This is not only in the nature of the organic principles, but an economic necessity, as consumers demand GMO-free food. Moreover, it is a legal obligation (3) for organic operators. However, EU policy takes its responsibility to ensure a GMO-free market, less and less seriously. This threatens the future of organic food and farming in the EU, which provides sustainable development, and creates innovation and employment even in times of the financial crisis.”

Therefore the IFOAM EU Group urges EU policy makers:

- To ensure the right of non-contamination by strict and European wide rules
- Ensure GMO-free seed by setting a labelling threshold for unintended GMO contamination at the detection level
- Protect the genetic biodiversity and thus ensure the food security of tomorrow
- Consider socio-economic criteria, and not only the economic concerns of the GM industry, before approving GMO
- Move GMO risk assessment to a truly independent and effective body.

“Five years after the EU moratorium on GMOs ended, consumers are still determined not to eat GMOs. The organic sector calls on the European decision makers to take their citizen’s concerns seriously into consideration, to revise the current EU legislation and to make it more efficient in serving the needs of the society”, says Marco Schlüter.

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Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

Notes:

- (1) <http://www.genfrei-gehen.de>
- (2) The IFOAM EU Group represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU- 27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.
- (3) Regulation (EC) 834/2007: "GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs shall not be used as food, feed, processing aids, plant protection products, fertilisers, soil conditioners, seeds, vegetative propagating material, micro-organisms and animals in organic production."