



GM in hive products



Apimondia 2011

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+ GMO in honey, pollen...

- Situation in EU
 - Before the 6 September 2011
 - After the 6 September 2011
- What can be the future ?
- What do we know today ?



+ Before the 6 September 2011

- In honey, there was no control of the GM content
 - % of GM was always $< 0,9 \%$
 - Officially the GM content must have a food agreement
 - No specific control
 - No labelling
- Pollen
 - Food agreement needed
 - Labelling if $\% > 0,9 \%$
 - Co-responsibility rules

+ The 6 September 2011

- GM pollens

- are not living => are non GMO

- are produced from GMOs'

⇒ Food approval for GMO

⇒ % < 0.9 % is not valid in this case

⇒ Honey “produced from GMO”



+ After the 6 September 2011

- 2 very diverging ways of interpreting the finding of the Court of Justice
 - Application without compromising
 - Open interpretation
 - A possible solution



+ Application without compromising

- Very few GMO pollen are allowed as food
- Destruction of honey containing disallowed GMO
- => ? Ultra filtration ? to eliminate pollens
- => ? Loss of traceability => ? opens door to falsifications
- => Beekeepers have to stop their production in GMO zones
- This way is too hard for most of the beekeepers

+ Open interpretation

- Facilitate the accreditation FEED in accreditation FOOD
- => The GMO pollen will be allowed
- Set high limit of detection and control system very permissive
- => No labelling for the most part of honeys
- It's an open door for GMO and the european beekeepers don't want this



+ A possible solution

- To fixed a clear limit of detection based on a % of product weight to control (? 0,05% ?)
- This limit must be reasonable and can take into account :
 - The impact on the health
 - The price of the analyse (a simple density of pollen analyse can be a first step)
- It can solve a part of problems (low contamination)



+ The questions

- Who will pay the analysis ?
- If we have a positive sample, what can we do ?
- Who will pay the loss of price ?
- In Europe we have a coexistence law who can set criteria like the distance between GM and non GM crops. For bees, it can go to 10 km. But there is nothing for honey production except in Germany.



+ The European Commission

- They had a meeting yesterday (22/09/2011)
- Content of a mail from the Commission :
 - Very complex situation
 - They are more questions than answers
 - Reflexion continue
 - The consultation :
 - 28 September with third countries
 - 30 September with stakeholders (FEEDEM, COPA-COGECA...)



+ The European Commission

■ Other reflexion :

- European reference laboratory will analyse the status of pollen in honeys
- EFSA will see his impact on health
- Controls depend of members states





Thank you for your attention