

Aan de staatssecretaris van
Infrastructuur en Milieu
dhr. J.J. Atsma
POSTBUS 30945
2500 GX Den Haag

DATUM 6 maart 2012
KENMERK CGM/120306-01
ONDERWERP Additional advice on import of soybean line MON87701 x MON89788

Dear Sir,

In 2010, COGEM advised on the market application for import and processing of the insect resistant and glyphosate tolerant soybean line MON87701 x MON89788.¹ COGEM concluded that import and processing of this soybean line poses negligible risks to the environment.

An additional remark was made by COGEM on the presentation of figures in the dossier. The quality of some of the blots supplied in the studies was lower than that of the same blots in the Technical Dossier. COGEM pointed out that this may lead to confusion, and that the way the data are presented by an applicant should be unambiguous.

Recently, EFSA published its opinion regarding import and processing of the above mentioned genetically modified soybean line MON87701 x MON89788.² EFSA agreed with COGEM that this soybean line is as safe as its comparator with respect to potential effects on human and animal health or the environment. The Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (IenM) asked COGEM whether the opinion of the EFSA GMO panel gives reason to reconsider her previous advice.

COGEM considered the opinion of the EFSA GMO panel and concludes that it does not give reason to reconsider COGEM's previous advice. COGEM remains of the opinion that import and processing of MON87701 X MON89788 soybean poses a negligible risk to the environment.

The EFSA GMO panel acknowledges the problems with presentation of the figures in the studies and states that this is the result of scanning of these documents. Due to the fact that EFSA requires the studies to be signed by the applicant, scanning of the documents is necessary. COGEM understands these technical difficulties, but stresses that the presentation

¹ COGEM (2010). Import and processing of genetically modified soybean MON87701 x MON89788. Advice CGM/100202-01

² EFSA (2012). Scientific opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2009-73) for placing on the market of insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant genetically modified soybean MON 87701 x MON 89788 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Monsanto. EFSA Journal 10: 2560



of the data has to be clear and that a low quality of presented pictures could hamper risk analysis.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line and a small dash.

Prof. dr. ir. Bastiaan C.J. Zoeteman
Chair COGEM

c.c. Dr. I. van der Leij
Drs. H.P. de Wijs