

Informatie privind GMO Ungaria

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ESA-Info

Hungary orders massive destructions of maize fields in which AP/LLP of GMOs is suspected

The Hungarian Government (Ministry for Agriculture / Rural Affairs) has ordered massive destructions of maize fields in which they suspect AP / LLP of GM plants.

The scope of the measure announced today covers around 2.500 ha.

The order is based on tests of samples that were apparently taken in May already.

A few weeks ago, Hungary already destroyed maize fields (approx. 1.000 ha) under a similar justification; here, the samples had apparently been taken in March.

n.b.: testing is said to be continued! It is thus possible that further destruction orders may be issued, depending on the results of those tests!

During an interview and a press conference today, the Hungarian Minister stated that (due to the fact that the crop had already flowered), isolation distances (400m) may/will have to be observed as well. With that, there is a possibility that the order may be extended to cover additional acreage.

According to our information, the tests by the HU authorities have not been event specific and results have not been validated.

As Hungary follows a strict 'zero tolerance' approach as regards GMOs (constitution forbids the use of GM plants), any detection regardless of level and specification is considered to justify such harsh measures. In this context, criminal prosecution was also mentioned as a route to follow by the Hungarian officials.

The ESA Secretariat will update Members on any new developments in this case.

We will also address the European Commission and inquire whether any form of notification has been received;

we will also underline once again that such disproportionate measures are the result of the unwillingness of the Commission to put forward legislation on an agreed sampling and testing protocol that would establish a tolerance and legal certainty for events not (yet) authorised in Europe as well as suitable thresholds for events authorised in the EU.

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