



## EFSA slams Seralini (GM Cancer) study as “not scientifically sound”

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ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural and ornamental plant species. It represents more than 30 national seed associations (and with that more than 7000 seed businesses in the EU) and more than 60 direct company members.

ESA's mission is to work for fair and proportionate regulation of the European seed industry, freedom of choice for customers in supplying seeds as a result of innovative, diverse technologies and production methods and for effective protection of intellectual property rights relating to plants and seed.

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The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) today found the much debated “Seralini study” that claimed to prove a high cancer risk of rats fed with genetically-modified (GM) maize\* as “scientifically not sound”.

In a strongly worded statement, EFSA says that its “initial review found that the design, reporting and analysis of the study, as outlined in the paper, are inadequate” and that it is “...unable to regard the authors’ conclusions as scientifically sound...” and that no conclusions can be made from this study about the occurrence of tumors in the tested rats. Therefore, EFSA concludes, it does “not see a need to re-examine its previous safety evaluation of maize NK603 nor to consider these findings in the on-going assessment of glyphosate”.

EFSA also calls on the French research team behind the study to share any unpublished additional data in the name of openness and transparency, a quest so far denied by Seralini.

In a comment, ESA Secretary General Garlich v. Essen points out: “All GM products need to go through a rigorous safety assessment by EFSA and only if they are safe for human and animal consumption and for the environment can they be approved. Apparently, the scientific quality of the Seralini report has not been subject to a similarly rigorous assessment. It is a pity that such bad science has still managed to grab the headlines.”

\* ‘Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize’; published in ‘Food and Chemical Toxicology’ review on 19 September 2012

The EFSA’s release is available [here](#).