

## International Workshop

### on the consequences of the ECJ judgement on GM pollen in honey for GM crop releases and cultivation in Germany and the EU

Berlin, December 13-14, 2011

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) decided in September this year that pollen of genetically modified (GM) plants (GMP) contained in honey counts as a food ingredient and requires authorisation. One of the consequences of this “reclassification” is that honey containing pollen of GMPs now falls within the scope of the regulation on GM food and feed. As a consequence, honey containing GM pollen can be placed on the market only if the GMP in question has been authorised as food and labeling requirements are observed. All unauthorised GMPs are subject to the zero tolerance policy.

The international workshop aims to discuss the consequences of the ECJ judgement for GM crop releases and cultivation in Germany and the EU and for the honey market. The workshop is expected to provide scientific data on practical measures for coexistence of beekeeping with commercial cultivation of GM plants and for experimental field releases. Detection methods for pollen in honey and labeling issues will be discussed as well.

English/German simultaneous translation of the plenary sessions will be provided.

## Programme

### Tuesday, 13.12.2011

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| 10:00-19:00  | Registration  |
| 11:45-12:50  | Light lunch   |
| 12:50-13:00  | Welcome Address: Christian Grugel, Head of Directorate-General Consumer Policy, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection |
| 13:00-16:00  | Session 1 (Goethe-Saal): General Issues<br>Chair: H.-Christoph von Heydebrand, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection  |
| - Dorothee André:<br>(European Commission, DG SANCO)                           | Consequences of the ECJ judgement   |
| - Joachim Schiemann:<br>(Julius Kuehn Institute)                               | European measures on coexistence and experiences with their implementation  |
| - Werner von der Ohe:<br>(LAVES Bee Research Institute Celle)                  | How does pollen end up in honey (especially maize and potato pollen)?   |
| - Joachim Mankertz:<br>(Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety) | Detection of GMP pollen in honey  |
| - Frank Filodda:<br>(German Honey Association)                                 | The German and European honey market – implications of the ECJ judgement  |
| - Walter Haefeker:<br>(European Professional Beekeepers Association, EPBA)     | Freedom of choice, coexistence and zero-tolerance: The application of the core principles of EU GMO legislation to bee products and services  |

- 16:00-16:30 Coffee break
- 16:30-16:40 Introduction into working groups  
Achim Gathmann, Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety
- 16:40-19:00 Discussion in 3 working groups:  
WG1 (Goethe-Saal) **Practical measures (i) for coexistence of beekeeping with commercial cultivation of GM plants and (ii) for experimental field releases**  
Chair: Werner von der Ohe, LAVES Bee Research Institute Celle  
Rapporteur: Frieder Hofmann, Ökologie Büro Bremen
- WG2 (Meitner-Saal) **Detection methods for GMP pollen in honey**  
Chair: Lutz Grohmann, Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety  
Rapporteur: Ugo Marchesi, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana Biotechnology
- WG3 (Vogt-Saal) **Consequences of the ECJ judgement for the European honey market and honey exporting countries**  
Chair: Thomas Heck, European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors  
Rapporteur: Dankwart Northe, Embassy of Uruguay, Berlin
- 19:30-21:30 Workshop Dinner upon the invitation of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (Harnack-House)

### Wednesday, 14.12.2011

- 08:00-13:00 Registration
- 08:30-10:30 Session 2 (Goethe-Saal): Scientific and Economic Issues  
Chair: Boet Glandorf, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
- Justus Wesseler: Economic consequences for the worldwide trade  
(Technical University of Munich)
  - Stephan Beck: Consequences for the fair trade with honey?  
(GEPA - The Fair Trade Company)
  - Esther Esteban Rodrigo: State of the art in Spain  
(Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs)
  - Antje Krüger: Current state of honey analyses in Germany  
(Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety)
  - Christine Eichner: Honey analysis in Lower Saxony  
(Lower Saxony State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety)
  - Paula Lanzelotti: Implementation of the ECJ judgement in the honey market practice: a technical study  
(Laboratorio de Control de Calidad MELACROM)
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:00 Working group reports
- 12:00-12:45 Final discussion  
Chair: Joachim Schiemann
- 12:45-13:00 Summary & take home messages  
Achim Gathmann