



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Safety of the Food Chain  
**Biotechnology**

Brussels,  
 SANTE/E1/MM/ng\_sante.ddg2.e.1(2015)4847329

Dear Mr Then,

**Subject: On-line petition Stoppt die Gift-Soja! Stop the toxic soybeans!**

Thank you for your letter regarding the on-line petition "Stop the toxic soybeans!" which was sent to Commissioner Andriukaitis. The Commissioner has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As already mentioned in my letter of 17 September 2015 (ref. Ares (2015)4023741), all food and feed placed on the market, including imported GMOs, have to comply with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005<sup>1</sup> on maximum residue levels (MRL) of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin which have been set taking into account cumulative effects of regular consumption of foods, containing such residues.

Regarding the herbicide-tolerant soybean FG72, please note that there are MRLs set for both pesticides, glyphosate and isoxaflutole, and their metabolites.

The paper (Cuhra, 2015) you are referring to in your letter has been sent to EFSA for analysis. However, as regards the comparative analysis of the GM plants and their conventional counterparts, please note that both, EFSA's Guidance on risk assessment of food and feed from genetically modified plants<sup>2</sup> and the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2013<sup>3</sup>, require that the comparative assessment should include data from plants sprayed with the intended herbicides and data from unsprayed plants to assess potential unintended effects. Thus, a potential combined effect of the newly expressed proteins and the herbicide treatment is considered in the GMO risk assessment of herbicide-tolerant crops.

I hope that you will find this additional clarification useful and reassuring.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothee André  
 Head of Unit

Mr Christoph Then  
 Testbiotech

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- 1 Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC, OJ L 70, 16.3.2005.
- 2 EFSA (2011a) Guidance for risk assessment of food and feed from GM plants. EFSA Journal 9(5):1-37 [2150], <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2150.pdf>
- 3 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2013 of 3 April 2013 on applications for authorisation of genetically modified food and feed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Regulations (EC) No 641/2004 and (EC) No 1981/2006, OJ L 157, 08.06.2013.