

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Japan - U.S. Patents and Biotechnology] (3 pages)	01/20/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [European Commission] (3 pages)	01/23/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (8 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [France - U.S. Agricultural Trade] (2 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Agricultural Biotechnology] (4 pages)	02/27/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
006. cable	Re: NZ Developments on Genetically Modified Foods (2 pages)	03/04/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
007. cable	Re: [Irish Politics] (5 pages)	03/12/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
008. cable	Re: [French Opposition to GMOs] (2 pages)	03/16/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
009. cable	Re: [Monitoring] (2 pages)	03/17/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
010. cable	Re: [GMO Corn] (3 pages)	03/17/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
011. cable	Re: [EU Vote on GMO Corn] (2 pages)	03/18/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
012. cable	Re: [USTR Ambassador Scher's Bilaterals] (9 pages)	03/18/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
013. cable	Re: EU Committee Approves GMOs (2 pages)	03/19/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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014. cable	Re: [GMO Corn Approval Vote] (3 pages)	03/19/1998	P1/b(1)
015. cable	Re: Next Step on GMO Approvals (2 pages)	03/27/1998	P1/b(1) <i>12/11/2009</i>

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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 Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA0096 0081642-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 081642Z JAN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 081642Z JAN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4508
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0186
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0165
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0354
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0278
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0036
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON AUSTRIA'S GMO SECTOR

STCABLE 802

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 000096

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS, PASS APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON AUSTRIA'S GMO SECTOR

STCABLE 802

1. SUMMARY: PIONEER'S UNEXPECTED APPLICATION FOR RELEASE OF BT CORN WAS MET WITH DISSATISFACTION BY THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER, AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS, GREEN PARTY, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND - SO FAR - TWO PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. PRAMMER IS EXPECTED TO DENY PERMISSION FOR FIELD RELEASE.

2. PRAMMER HAS SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENT A DRAFT REGULATION WHICH INCLUDES HIGHER FINES FOR UNPERMITTED GMO RELEASE AND MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE GMO APPROVAL PROCEDURES. SOME GROUPS DISSATISFIED WITH THE LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE'S DEMANDS HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE SPECIAL GENE TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION.

3. A "WORKING GROUP FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY-FREE PRODUCTS" HAS

SET UP ITS FIRST CATALOGUE WITH WRITTEN CRITERIA FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY FREE PRODUCTION.

4. A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCERY SUGGESTED THAT GMO RELEASE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON A GEOGRAPHICALLY DIFFERENTIATED BASIS. END SUMMARY.

COMPANIES PUSH FOR GMO RELEASE

5. AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER 1997, THE COMPANIES NOVARTIS, MONSANTO, AND PIONEER JOINTLY CARRIED OUT A MAILING TO ALL AUSTRIAN FARMERS ASKING THEM IF THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO TEST GMO CORN ON THEIR FIELDS. ALTHOUGH FARMER REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL ADVOCATE THE USE OF GMOS IN AUSTRIA, THEY REACTED NEGATIVELY AND CONDEMNED PARTICULARLY THE COMPANIES' PROCEDURES.

6. THE PRESIDENT OF THE TYROLEAN AGRICULTURAL CHAMBER CRITICIZED THE MAILING AS GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT GMO PLANTING IS PERMITTED IN AUSTRIA AND FOR PROVIDING NO INFORMATION CONCERNING RISKS OF GMOS.

7. THE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS, THE ORGANIZATION MOST IN FAVOR OF GMO USE, ALSO REACTED NEGATIVELY. IT NOTED THAT DUE TO THE PENDING CASE AT THE EU COURT CONCERNING AUSTRIA'S BAN ON GM CORN, NO GMOS CAN BE PLANTED IN 1998. FOR THIS REASON, THE CONFERENCE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT FARMERS NOT RESPOND TO THE MAILING.

8. ALTHOUGH THE INITIATIVE OF THE THREE FIRMS WAS MET WITH NEGATIVE REACTION BY OFFICIALS, THERE ARE FARMERS INTERESTED IN CARRYING OUT GMO FIELD TESTS. WHILE SO FAR NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD REGARDING CONCRETE TESTS BY NOVARTIS AND MONSANTO, PIONEER APPLIED SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS FOR PERMISSION TO RELEASE PEST-RESISTANT BT CORN INTO TEST FIELDS.

9. PIONEER INTENDS TO CARRY OUT THE TESTS IN 10 AREAS OF AUSTRIA'S AGRICULTURALLY MOST IMPORTANT PROVINCES: BURGENLAND (HORNSTEIN, SCHUETZEN, STADTSCHLEINING), LOWER AUSTRIA (PALTENDORF, HOLLABRUNN), UPPER AUSTRIA (BACHMANNING, TAUFKIRCHEN, BAUMGARTENBERG) AND STYRIA (STOCKING, DOBL). ACCORDING TO PIONEER, THE TESTS WILL BE MADE DURING A TWO YEAR PERIOD UNDER STRICT CONDITIONS AND CONTROLS AS REQUIRED FOR VARIETY REGISTRATION BY AUSTRIAN AGENCIES.

10. WHEN THE GREEN PARTY AND ECOLOGICAL GROUPS WERE INFORMED ABOUT PIONEER'S STEPS TOWARD THE END OF DECEMBER 1997, THEY REACTED WITH ANGER. THE GREEN PARTY PROTESTED AND REQUESTED THAT BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, TURN DOWN THE APPLICATION. IN THEIR OPINION, EVERYTHING ELSE WOULD BE AN AFFRONT FOR THE 1.2 MILLION AUSTRIANS WHO SIGNED THE ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE IN APRIL 1997. IN ADDITION, THEY DEMANDED THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND MAYORS OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES COMMIT NOT TO PERMIT FIELD RELEASE OF BT CORN IN THEIR PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

11. GREENPEACE PLANS ACTIONS AGAINST PIONEER'S INTENTION AND GLOBAL 2000 ANNOUNCED "PEACEFUL RESISTANCE".

12. WHETHER DRIVEN BY CONVICTION OR BY PURELY REAL POLITICAL MOTIVES, SHORTLY AFTER THE UPROAR OF THE GREENS, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS OF UPPER AUSTRIA AND LOWER AUSTRIA UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 000096

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS, PASS APHS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON AUSTRIA'S GMO SECTOR

VOICED THEIR NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE APPLICATION AND DEMANDED FROM PRAMMER A "STRICT PROCEDURE".

13. PRAMMER, WHO DID NOT ANTICIPATE THE RELEASE APPLICATION, IS UNHAPPY WITH PIONEER'S STEP. SHE MENTIONED THAT PIONEER'S MOVE AT THIS TIME HAS DONE A DISSERVICE TO THE GMO DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, THE APPLICATION MUST NOW GO THROUGH THE LEGAL APPROVAL PROCEDURE AND PRAMMER HAS TO MAKE THE DECISION. THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE FEDERAL CHANCERY AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FROM JANUARY 7 TO JANUARY 27, 1998 AND ON JANUARY 30, 1998 A PUBLIC HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FEDERAL CHANCERY. "PROVED OBJECTIONS" CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE FEDERAL CHANCERY. GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000 HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT PRINTED OBJECTION CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THEIR OFFICES. "PROVEN OBJECTIONS" ON THESE CARDS INCLUDE THE STATEMENTS THAT BT PLANTS WILL NOT ONLY PEST INSECTS BUT ALSO BEES AND LADBUGS, BT-RESISTANT PLANTS CAN DEVELOP AND THAT BT PESTICIDES PERMITTED IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WOULD BE INEFFECTIVE.

14. COMMENT: AFTER THE ANTI-GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE, PRAMMER APPROACHED ALL COMPANIES IN AUSTRIA INTERESTED IN GENE TECHNOLOGY AND ASKED THEM TO ABSTAIN VOLUNTARILY FROM RELEASE APPLICATIONS AT LEAST UNTIL THE LIABILITY QUESTION IS SOLVED. UNTIL RECENTLY, ALL COMPANIES HAD ACCEDED TO HER WISH (ALBEIT WITH SOME GRINNING OF TEETH) AS THEY HAVE BEEN AWARE THAT FIELD TRIAL APPLICATIONS WOULD FACE A NEGATIVE OUTCOME. DUE TO THE DIFFICULTIES IN AUSTRIA, SOME COMPANIES (E. G. THE STARCH INDUSTRY) WENT ABROAD WITH FIELD TESTS. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR PIONEER AND OTHER SEED COMPANIES WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING THEIR PRODUCTS TESTED AND APPROVED IN AUSTRIA.

15. PIONEER OBVIOUSLY BECAME IMPATIENT AND THUS BECAME A "PIONEER" IN THE REAL SENSE OF THE WORD. IT IS UNKNOWN WHEN THE REGULATION CONCERNING LIABILITY IN CASE OF NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF GMOS WILL PASS PARLIAMENT. MOST LIKELY IT WILL

NOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT SOON ENOUGH FOR SPRING PLANTING WHICH MEANS THAT PIONEER WOULD LOSE ONE YEAR. HOWEVER, PIONEER WILL ANYWAY NOT BE ABLE TO USE THIS CROP YEAR FOR ITS TESTS SINCE THE ECOLOGICALLY ORIENTED AND POLITICALLY ASTUTE PRAMMER IS NOT EXPECTED TO APPROVE APPLICATION. AND PIONEER IS AWARE OF THIS. END COMMENT.

NEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING GENE TECHNOLOGY

16. ABOUT DECEMBER 10, BARBARA PRAMMER SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENT A DRAFT ORDINANCE TO THE GENE TECHNOLOGY LAW WHICH INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- INCREASE FINES FROM AS 50,000 TO AS 300,000 FOR GMO RELEASE WITHOUT OFFICIAL PERMISSION.
- THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN ALL COMMUNITIES WHERE GMO RELEASE IS PLANNED. IN ADDITION, REPRESENTATIVES OF MUNICIPALITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN GMO RELATED INITIATIVES WILL BE ACCORDED THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND NOT MERELY TO OBSERVE THE APPROVAL PROCEDURES.
- NGOS (IN PRACTICE GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000) SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMISSIONS OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION WHICH INFLUENCE THE MINISTER'S DECISION ON GMO RELEASE.

17. IN ADDITION, PRAMMER ANNOUNCED THAT SHE PLANS A REGULATION FOR THE CREATION OF "GMO-FREE ZONES IN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE AREAS". THE INITIATORS OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH THESE CONCESSIONS. IN THEIR OPINION, NOT EVEN ONE ITEM OF THE INITIATIVE HAS BEEN PUT INTO PRACTICE. FOR THIS REASON THEY LEFT THE SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARIAN GENE TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (THIS BODY WAS CREATED SOON AFTER THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE TO BRING TO LIFE ITEMS OF THE INITIATIVE). THE OPPOSITION FREEDOM PARTY AND GREEN PARTY JOINED THE BOYCOTT AND THE THIRD OPPOSITION PARTY, THE LIBERAL FORUM, DECLARED ITS SYMPATHY WITH THE ANTI-GMO NGOS.

18. COMMENT: WHETHER THE NGOS WHICH INITIATED THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE WILL RETURN TO THE COMMISSION IS STILL UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 000096

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS, PASS APHIS
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON AUSTRIA'S GMO SECTOR

AN OPEN QUESTION. FOR POLITICAL REASONS, IT MAY BE WISER

FOR THEM NOT TO JOIN IN AGAIN SINCE INDEED THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL PROGRESS IN ADOPTING ITEMS OF THE ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, NEITHER OF THE RULING COALITION PARTIES CAN EFFORD TO PUT THE ITEMS DEMANDED INTO EFFECT WITHOUT INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY THE DAMAGE WHICH WHAT REMAINS OF AUSTRIA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY SECTOR HAS ALREADY SUFFERED THROUGH THE RESISTANCE ORCHESTRATED BY GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000. END COMMENT.

FIRST LABELING FOR GMO FREE PRODUCTS

19. A "WORKING GROUP FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY FREE-PRODUCTS" WAS RECENTLY CREATED BY AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS TO ALLOW CONSUMERS THE PURCHASE OF GOODS PRODUCED WITHOUT GENE TECHNOLOGY. THE INITIATORS CREATED A LARGE CATALOGUE WITH CRITERIA FOR PLANTING, PRODUCING, AND CONTROLLING AND CLAIM TO HAVE WRITTEN THE FIRST CLEAR REGULATION FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY FREE PRODUCTION.

20. BY THEIR REGULATIONS, FOODS LABELED "CERTIFIED GENE TECHNOLOGY FREE PRODUCED" MUST NEITHER CONSIST OF GMOS NOR INCLUDE THEM, NOR USE GMOS IN THEIR PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION OF THEIR ADDITIVES (E.G. VITAMINS, ENZYMES ETC.) NO GENE TECHNOLOGY PROCEDURES MAY BE APPLIED. WITH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, FEEDS MUST ALSO BE GMO-FREE. STRICT AND REGULAR SUSPENSION OF INDEPENDENT PARTIES IS A FURTHER CONDITION FOR THE LABEL.

21. COMMENT: GMO-FREE PRODUCTS IN THE STRICT SENSE OF ABOVE MAY COVER A MARKET NICHE. THE PURCHASE VOLUME SHOULD BE LIMITED BY HIGHER PRICES. END COMMENT.

REGIONALISATION AND TEMPORAL RESTRICTION FOR GMOS

22. A SPOKESPERSON FOR BARBARA PRAMMER RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT GMO RELEASE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON A GEOGRAPHICALLY DIFFERENTIATED BASIS. HE POINTED OUT THAT NOT ALL GMOS ARE GOOD FOR ALL PLACES. THUS, HE DEMANDED THAT EU REGULATIONS ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF ADMISSION OF GMOS WITH VARIABLE LOCAL AND TEMPORAL RESTRICTIONS. DUE TO THE LARGE SHARE OF ORGANIC FARMS WHICH ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO COME IN CONTACT WITH GMOS, SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR AUSTRIA. HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 0096
<^SSN>0096
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TOR: 980108114329 M3096865
<^TOR>980108114506 M3096868
<^TOR>980108114523 M3096870

DIST: SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA0600 0221724-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 221724Z JAN 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

OSRI: RUEHVI

DTG: 221724Z JAN 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4739
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0196

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0385
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0295
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0230
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0179
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0052

SUBJ: STATUS OF GMO LEGISLATION IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 000600

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, ICD/IRSED/BECK, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GMO LEGISLATION IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

REF: WARSAW 14621

STCABLE 801

(U) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE HUNGARIAN AND CZECH GOVERNMENTS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION FOR THE CONTROL AND RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). THE HUNGARIANS ARE FARTHER ALONG IN THE PROCESS, BUT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE BASICALLY PREPARING LEGISLATION IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE EU. HOWEVER, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE POINTED OUT SOME DEVIATIONS FROM EU POLICY THAT COULD CAUSE CONCERN IN THE FUTURE. AGVIENNA AND APHIS/VIENNA AGREE THAT USDA SHOULD PROVIDE

AN EXPERT TO COMMENT ON DRAFT LEGISLATION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING TO THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT'S AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 11. DR. JOHN PAYNE/AHPIS HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS BRIEFING AND WILL ALSO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN POLAND (SEE REF). END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) AGATT VISITED SEVERAL INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS (MPS) IN EACH COUNTRY IN MID-DECEMBER TO SURVEY THE SITUATION SURROUNDING GMOS. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD GMOS IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE AUSTRIAN ONE. HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN INFLUENCING DRAFTERS TO INCLUDE THEIR REQUIREMENTS IN ADDITION TO HARMONIZING WITH THE BASIC EU LEGISLATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MPS WE MET WITH INDICATED SUPPORT OF SCIENCE BASED LEGISLATION AND EXPRESSED RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GMOS TO THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE ECONOMIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THEY ASKED FOR SUPPORT FROM USDA IN PROVIDING EXPERTS TO REVIEW DRAFT LEGISLATION AND TO PROVIDE AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE ON GMO REGULATION.

INDUSTRY SITUATION

3. (SBU) THE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN HUNGARY HAVE DEVELOPED A FORMAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND HAVE HIRED A LOCAL PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM TO REPRESENT BETTER THEIR INTERESTS. THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC, BUT NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN, THAT THEIR SPECIFIC CONCERNS WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGH AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATION. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MAY, THE BIOTECH LEGISLATION COULD BECOME A HOT POLITICAL ISSUE. THEREFORE, THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO TAKE A VERY LOW-KEY APPROACH TO THEIR LOBBYING EFFORTS AND HOPE THAT THE LEGISLATION WILL QUIETLY PASS THROUGH THE PARLIAMENT.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFINGS ON GMOS

4. (SBU) DRAFT GMO LEGISLATION WAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED IN THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT AND WILL BE DEBATED AROUND THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY WITH A FINAL VOTE AROUND THE FIRST OF MARCH. ONE OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY MPS WE MET WITH SUGGESTED THAT USDA TAKE THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING FOR THE PARLIAMENT'S AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE. THE MP PROPOSED THAT THE BRIEFING TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 11, WHICH WOULD PRECEDE THE GMO DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT AND COINCIDE WITH THE NORMAL WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AGR COMMITTEE MEETING.

EXPERT TEAM

4. (SBU) AHPIS SCIENTIST DR. JOHN PAYNE HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS BRIEFING ALONG WITH DR. IGNACE DEBRUYNE, A BELGIAN FOOD TECHNOLOGIST (SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION) WHO SERVES ON SEVERAL EU EXPERT COMMITTEES. THE CANADIAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES IN BUDAPEST ARE ALSO CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING EXPERTS AS WELL. IN ADDITION, WE PLAN ON INVITING AT LEAST ONE AUSTRIAN AND ONE HUNGARIAN SCIENTIST.

5. (SBU) WE WILL ALSO ORGANIZE A BRIEFING FOR HUNGARIAN REGULATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO LEGISLATION. THIS WOULD INCLUDE OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND HEALTH.

CURRENT GMO SITUATION IN HUNGARY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 000600

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, ICD/IRSED/BECK, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GMO LEGISLATION IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH
REPUBLIC

REF: WARSAW 14621

6. (SBU) EU APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING IMPORTED INTO BOTH COUNTRIES WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS, BUT REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS OF NEW SEEDS/PRODUCTS ARE NOT CLEAR. BIOTECH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT APPLICATIONS FOR TRIALS IN HUNGARY, BUT HAVE HELD BACK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE NEW LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE WAITED FOR OVER TWO YEARS AND ARE EAGER TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES. ONE OF THE HUNGARIAN MPS SUGGESTED THAT THE INDUSTRY REPS SHOULD DO A BETTER JOB OF LOBBYING AND SHOULD NOT BE HESITANT ABOUT PLACING APPLICATIONS (ESPECIALLY GMO PRODUCTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE EU) WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. HE SAID THAT THE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF DEVELOPING THE NECESSARY REGULATIONS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

CURRENT GMO SITUATION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

7. (SBU) LEGISLATION IS BEING DRAFTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER FOR HIS REVIEW DURING JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. ONCE THE MINISTER HAS SIGNED OFF ON THE DRAFT LEGISLATION, IT WILL BE CIRCULATED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. AFTER AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF TIME THE LEGISLATION WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE PARLIAMENT. WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET A FIRM TIME FRAME DUE TO THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

8. (SBU) ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY CONTACTS TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE GMO LEGISLATION IS ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT, COMPANIES CAN FILE APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS UNDER VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF EXISTING LAWS. HOWEVER, INDUSTRY CONTACTS INDICATED THAT THEY HAD FILED APPLICATIONS, BUT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE CZECH GOVERNMENT.

9. (SBU) WE ALSO MET A CZECH RESEARCHER FROM CHARLES UNIVERSITY WHO HAD RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A RESEARCHER'S ASSOCIATION CALLED QUOTE BIOTREND UNQUOTE. THIS SCIENTIST HAS BEEN QUITE ACTIVE IN GIVING LECTURES AND WRITING ARTICLES FOR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. HE IS ALSO WORKING CLOSELY WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND HAS A GOOD FEEL FOR WHERE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IS HEADED WITH THE DRAFT LEGISLATION. HE INDICATED THAT THE BACKGROUND OF THE KEY DRAFTER IS IN HANDLING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND HE BELIEVES THAT THE FINAL CZECH LEGISLATION WILL BE MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN CURRENT EU LEGISLATION. FAS/VIENNA SENT A COPY OF ONE OF HIS ARTICLES TO ITP/SLUTSKY WHICH SUMMARIZES HIS CONCERNS.

10. (SBU) IN ADDITION, AGATT MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CZECH PARLIAMENT'S AGR COMMITTEE. THIS MP INDICATED THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT SUCH A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE MUCH OPPOSITION TO BIOTECH LEGISLATION IN THE FUTURE. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF SENDING CZECH REGULATORS TO THE UNITED STATES TO SPEND TIME WITH U.S. REGULATORS PROVIDING THEM WITH PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN REGISTERING AND MONITORING GMOS. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS IN THE FUTURE WITH THE COCHRAN PROGRAM. HE WAS ALSO OPEN TO ANY BRIEFINGS THAT U.S. REGULATORS WOULD CARE TO GIVE TO CZECH LEGISLATORS IN THE FUTURE. COMMENT: IT IS OUR OPINION THAT IT WILL BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE GMO LEGISLATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE PARLIAMENT, SO WE SHOULD HAVE TIME TO PREPARE BRIEFINGS FOR THE PARLIAMENT MEMBERS AND REGULATORS LATER IN THE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER. END COMMENT.

11. (SBU) COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT MOST HUNGARIANS AND CZECHS HAVE MORE SERIOUS CONCERNS THAN THE MINUTE RISKS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. THIS TOPIC IS A LUXURY THAT AUSTRIANS ENJOY DEBATING. HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, THE SAME ONES THAT HAVE BEEN SO DISRUPTIVE IN AUSTRIA, ARE ALSO ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN INFLUENCING DRAFTERS OF GMO LEGISLATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. WE ARE ALSO UNABLE TO ANTICIPATE IF AND WHEN THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL LAUNCH NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST BIOTECHNOLOG. WE THUS THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE PROVIDE LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORS IN THE REGION WITH OBJECTIVE AND SCIENCE BASED BRIEFINGS ON GMOS WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO MAKE MORE INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 000600

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, ICD/IRSED/BECK, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ

SUBJECT: STATUS OF GMO LEGISLATION IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH
REPILIC

REF: WARSAW 14621

THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND HOPE WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS. END COMMENT. HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 0600
<^SSN>0600
<^SSN>0600

TOR: 980122163957 M3115710
<^TOR>980122164103 M3115713
<^TOR>980122164217 M3115717

DIST:
SIT: BRADEN FLANAGAN MCELDOWNEY
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. cable	Re: [European Commission] (3 pages)	01/23/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (8 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F

ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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004. cable	Re: [France - U.S. Agricultural Trade] (2 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA0891 0430523-UUUU--RHEHAOX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 120523Z FEB 98

LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS

OSRI: RUEHBS

DTG: 120523Z FEB 98

ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG

SUBJ: GMO CORN PASSES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 000891

FAS FOR ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY, OFSTS/G&F
OSEC/DRAZEK
OAA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY, IVES
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: GMO CORN PASSES SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1. ON FEBRUARY 10, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF DG XXIV (CONSUMER AFFAIRS) APPROVED THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN. THE CORN VARIETIES NOW FACE A VOTE BY MEMBER STATES AT AN ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11. IF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTES FAVORABLY, AND FINAL BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES GO SMOOTHLY, THE LAST MAJOR HURDLE IN THE EU DIRECTIVE 90/220 APPROVAL PROCESS WILL BE CLEARED AND 1997 CROP U.S. CORN CAN BE IMPORTED AND SOLD IN THE EU.

2. THE TEXT OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE ON DG XXIV'S WEB SITE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13. COMMISSION SOURCES REPORT LITTLE DEBATE IN THE COMMITTEE, BUT ARE CAUTIOUS ABOUT FINAL PRODUCT APPROVAL, SAYING THERE IS NO GUARANTEE OF A POSITIVE VOTE BY THE MEMBER STATES AS POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY IS WELL-ORGANIZED.

3. THE THREE VARIETIES APPROVED ARE FROM NOVARTIS,

AGREVO, AND MONSANTO. AN ARTICLE 21 VOTE ON THE MONSANTO PRODUCT ALREADY HAD BEGUN BEFORE DG XXIV INJECTED ITS COMMITTEE INTO THE APPROVAL PROCESS, BUT THAT VOTE HAS BEEN NULLIFIED AND ITS PRODUCT WILL BE VOTED ON WITH THE AGREVO AND NOVARTIS PRODUCTS AT THE MARCH 11 MEETING. BOTH MONSANTO AND COMMISSION REGULATORS HOPE THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL WILL GIVE SEVERAL MEMBER STATES WHO ABSTAINED EARLIER THE COURAGE TO VOTE POSITIVELY.

4. POST WILL MONITOR PRESS REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, AS THIS MAY SERVE AS A USEFUL MEASURE OF ATTITUDES

WEAER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0891

TOR: 980212012710 M3147289

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2867
INFO: RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0119
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USISSION GENEVA 0032
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 090
SUBJ: NEW BLOW TO GMO PROSPECTS IN IRELAD
TEXT:
UNCLAS DUBLIN 000837

DEPT PASS UST

GENEVA FOR USTR

FAS FOR ITP DIV, OFSTS/ARBERT, FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, WTRO, I
SUBJECT: NEW BLOW TO GMO PROSPECTS IN IRELAD

REF: 97 DUBLIN 5209

1. SUMMARY. IRISH PUBLIC DOUBTS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF GMOS HAV BEEN REINFORCED BY THE STATEMENTS OF DARINA ALLEN, A LEADING IRISH CHEF AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD O THE NEW FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY. ALLEN SAID SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPEED AT WHICH GMOS WERE BEING APPROVED DESPITE THE PUBLIC'S GENERAL LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT SHE IMPLIED WERE UNNATURAL SUBSTANCES. PUBLIC AND POLITICAL OPINION IS LIKELY TO TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE, PARTICULARLY AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO TAKE A DEFINITE STANCE ON THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY THE IRISH TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11, 1998, DARINA ALLEN, A BEST-SELLING COOKERY WRITER AND BROADCASTER AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (FSA), HAS COME OUT AGAINST GMOS. SHE CLAIMS THAT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF "FIDDLING AROUND WITH GENES" IN FOOD PRODUCTS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY EXPLORED. MORE SPECIFICALLY, MS. ALLEN HAS DECLARED THAT MONSANTO'S EFFORTS AT DEVELOPING 10 NEW GMO SITES IN IRELAND ARE NOT IN THE IRISH INTEREST. AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME PAPER HIGHLIGHTED MS. ALLEN'S ROLE IN

FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE CONCERN OVER GMOS. IT ALSO EMPHASIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY IN HELPING TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND ASSURE SAFETY OF FOOD IN IRELAND.

3. MONSANTO HAS BEEN WORKING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, ACADEMICS AND MEDIA TO PROMOTE THE CASE FOR GMOS. IN FACT, THE IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS RULED THAT GMOS ARE INHERENTLY SAFE. HOWEVER, PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GMOS DOES NOT SEEM TO REFLECT THIS FAVORABLE JUDGMENT, AS LAST YEAR'S SABOTAGE OF A GMO TEST SITE BY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTERS INDICATES. IN ADDITION, MONSANTO HAS BEEN REFUSED THE RIGHT TO KEEP THE LOCATION OF ITS FUTURE GMO TEST SITES SECRET BY THE IRISH COURTS. FURTHERMORE, THE COMPANY FACES A COURT BATTLE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP GENETIC CONCERN ON THE LICENSING FOR THESE TEST SITES BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. THE COMPANY HAS RESPONDED TO THE LATEST COMMENTS FROM MS. ALLEN WITH A STATEMENT NOTING THAT GMOS ARE ALREADY WIDELY USED IN IRISH FOOD AND OFFERING TO MEET WITH MS. ALLEN TO DISCUSS HER CONCERNS.

4. INDUSTRY SOURCES WHO HAVE MET WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ON THIS SUBJECT REPORT THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT TO DEVIATE FROM EU POLICY ON GMOS. WHILE PRIVATELY THESE OFFICIALS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR AN OPEN ATTITUDE TO GMOS AND SAY THEY HAVE RESISTED AUSTRIAN CALLS IN THE EU FOR A BAN ON GMOS, THEY DO NOT WISH TO BE THE SOURCE OF ANY PRECEDENT-SETTING MEASURES AND SEEM ANXIOUS TO LEAVE ANY REAL DECISION-MAKING TO GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE PROCESS SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FSA.

5. COMMENT. DARINA ALLEN'S COMMENTS WILL HAVE GREAT PUBLIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT IN IRELAND. HOWEVER INAPPROPRIATE FOR A MEMBER OF THE FSA TO TAKE A STANCE ON AN ISSUE NOW THE SUBJECT OF AN FSA STUDY, IN IRISH POLITICAL CULTURE PRONOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS HERS TEND TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR POLITICIANS TO TAKE AN OPPOSING STANCE. ON THE UPSIDE, IRISH OFFICIALS' DESIRE TO AVOID THE LIMELIGHT ON THIS ISSUE MEANS THAT IRELAND WILL AT A MINIMUM BE UNLIKELY TO TAKE A NEGATIVE ROLE IN DEBATE IN THE EU. END COMMENT.

SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0837

TOR: 980212141626 M3148483

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SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 131646Z FEB 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
OSRI: RUEHCP
DTG: 131646Z FEB 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2315
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0021
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0030
SUBJ: DANES ON EU GMO LABELLING: IT MUST BE DONE, BUT
WE HAVEN'T WORKED OUT HOW
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 COPENHAGEN 000925

STATE PASS USTR
USDA FOR ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/EAMED/CTORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; FAA/PLETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, USTR, TBIO, DA
SUBJECT: DANES ON EU GMO LABELLING: IT MUST BE DONE, BUT
WE HAVEN'T WORKED OUT HOW
REF: STATE 18306

1. SUMMARY. MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND FISHERIES OFFICIALS TELL US CONSUMER DEMANDS IN DENMARK AND THE EU WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN AN EU LABELLING REQUIREMENT FOR GMO PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY HAS YET TO DEVISE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES THAT WOULD DEFINE WHICH GMO PRODUCTS WOULD BE LABELLED UNDER THE CATEGORIES OF DO, MIGHT, AND DO NOT CONTAINS GMOS. THE MINISTRY BELIEVES THE CURRENT EU PROPOSAL, IF ADOPTED, WOULD REQUIRE NO CHANGE IN DANISH LAW AND RESULT ONLY IN NEW REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.
XIT'S ALL ABOUT CONSUMER RIGHTS....

2. EST COUNSELOR AND AG SPECIALIST MET FEB. 5 WITH OLE KOPP-CHRISTENSEN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE VETERINARY AND FOOD DIRECTORATE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND DELIVERED U.S. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED EU REGULATION ON GMO PRODUCT LABELLING.

3. THE MINISTRY AGREES WITH US THAT FOODS INCLUDING GMOS ARE SAFE, AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LABELLING PROPOSAL WILL NOT IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY. DENMARK PERMITS THE SALE OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, AS LONG AS THEY ARE LABELLED

PROPERLY. MOST DANISH CONSUMERS AND THE PARLIAMENT AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH, BUT SOME GROUPS -- GREENPEACE IN PARTICULAR-- ACTIVELY OPPOSE ALL GMO PRODUCTS IN DENMARK, LABELLED OR NOT. THE TWO MAJOR WHOLESALERS OF FOODS TO RETAIL CHAINS, REACTING TO THEIR PERCEPTION OF CONSUMER OPPOSITION TO GMO PRODUCTS, HAS A "NO GMO" POLICY WHICH MAY AFFECT AS MUCH AS 60 PERCENT OF THE MARKET. NEITHER THE EU PROPOSAL OR DANISH IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS WILL XINCREASE THE MARKET APPEAL OF GMO PRODUCTS HERE.

BUT WHAT DO CONSUMERS WANT TO KNOW?

4. KOPP-CHRISTENSEN AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARGUE THAT THE EU PROPOSAL ON GMOS, AS FAR AS INFORMATION ON THE LABEL. WOULD TREAT GMOS IN THE SAME WAY AS FOOD COLORING OR OTHER INGREDIENTS IN A PRODUCT, AND WOULD NOT GIVE SPECIAL PROMINENCE TO GMOS. THE GOAL, THEY ARGUE, IS TO RESPOND TO CONSUMERS WHO MAY MAKE PURCHASING DECISIONS ON THE BASIS OF GMOS AND TO NEW CONSUMER INTEREST IN PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES AS WELL AS PRODUCT QUALITY.

5. THE MINISTRY AGREES WITH OUR VIEW THAT LABELLING PRODUCTS AS "MAY CONTAIN GMOS" PROVIDES THE CONSUMER WITH NO USEFUL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, IN OPPOSITION TO OUR VIEW THAT LABELLING SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED FOR FOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCED WITH GMOS WHICH ARE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT IN QUALITY OR COMPOSTION, DENMARK BELIEVES GMOS REPRESENT A BLACK/WHITE ISSUE FOR CONSUMERS, AND THAT "ANY MEASURABLE" PERCENTAGE OF GMOS IN A PRODUCT WARRANTS SPECIFIC INCLUSION ON THE LABEL. THE COMMENT IS XINSTRUCTIVE; SUGAR DERIVED FROM DANISH GMO SUGAR BEETS HAS NO MEASURABLE DNA INDICATING THE PRESENCE OF GMOS.

STANDARDS, TESTING, CERTIFICATION

6. THE DANES BELIEVE THE CURRENT EU LABELLING PROPOSAL REQUIRES NO NEW DOMESTIC LEGISLATION, ONLY ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS WITHIN THE COMPETENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD. THE MINISTRY HAS CANVASSED INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER GROUPS ON LABELLING, AND THEIR REPLIES INDICATE PRACTICAL CONCERNS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH U.S. COMMENTS ON THE EU DRAFT. THE MINISTRY, INDUSTRY GROUPS AND NGOS RECOGNIZE THAT THE LABELLING PROPOSAL, DRIVEN BY A PRODUCT "ON THE SHELF" REQUIREMENT, HAS BACKWARD LINKS TO THE FARM IN TERMS OF INTEGRITY OF GMO FREE CERTIFICATION, OR LEAST COSTLY DETERMINATION OF GMO CONTENT.

7. DESPITE THIS UNDERSTANDING, FOOD MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD US THEY HAVE NOT PREPARED A TESTING OR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR EITHER DOMESTIC OR IMPORTED PRODUCTS. THEY ARE INCLINED TOWARD DNA RATHER THAN PROTEIN TESTS, WHERE XTESTS WOULD BE REQUIRED. DETECTION LEVELS FOR PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD REQUIRE LABELLING AS "CONTAINING GMOS" ARE NOT DECIDED, ALTHOUGH 0.1 PERCENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND APPARENTLY REJECTED AS TOO COARSE A MEASURE. NOR IS IT CLEAR IF A FARM CERTIFICATE OF GMO FREE PRODUCTION WOULD NEED TO BE SUPPORTED BY TEST SAMPLE RESULTS, AND IF SO, WHETHER EVERY SHIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE TESTED. THE DANES

GAVE NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER INDEPENDENT LABS, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT TESTS FOR CERTIFICATION PURPOSES.

8. FURTHER, THERE IS NO CLEAR THINKING ABOUT WHETHER A GMO FREE CERTIFICATION OF THE RAW PRODUCT WOULD BE THE FINAL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 COPENHAGEN 000925

STATE PASS STR
USDA FOR ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/EAMED/CTORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT;CMP/DA/JPARKER;FAA/PLETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, USTR, TBIO, DA
SUBJECT: DANES ON EU GMO LABELLING: IT MUST BE DONE, BUT WE HAVEN'T WORKED OUT HOW
REF: STATE 18306

HURDLE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ADDITIONAL TESTS MIGHT BE REQUIRED CLOSER TO THE FINAL PRODUCT, E.G. THE INCLUSION OF SOYFILLERS IN SOME MEAT PRODUCTS MIGHT REQUIRE SAMPLE TESTS OF THE PRODUCTS, OR SOYBEAN OIL MIGHT NEED TO BE TESTED AT THE BOTTLING PLANT.

9. COMMENT: CLAIMING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR LABELLING, DENMARK XIS RUNNING QUICKLY DOWN THE POLITICAL PATH, BUT FAR MORE SLOWLY ON THE UPHILL ROAD OF PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO COME UP WITH REGULATIONS WHICH ARE WORKABLE FOR PRODUCERS, AND WHICH DO NOT IMPOSE SUBSTANTIAL COSTS ON THE FOOD INDUSTRY AND ULTIMATELY ON CONSUMERS.
ELSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 0925
<^SSN>0925

TOR: 980213115548 M3150514
<^TOR>980213115549 M3150515

DIST:
SIT: BANDLER BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON MCELLOWNEY TODD
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA1776 0581356-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 271356Z FEB 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 271356Z FEB 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5299
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0468
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0433
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0333
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0257
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0073
SUBJ: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION
- IN SLOVAKIA

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By 12 NARA, Date 11/24/14
2016-0524-m (1.87)

CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMERICAN
EMBASSY VIENNA, FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 001776

FROM REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2008
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, LO
SUBJECT: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION
- IN SLOVAKIA

CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMERICAN
EMBASSY VIENNA, FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: BIOTECHNOLOGY HAS NOT YET BECOME A PUBLIC
ISSUE IN SLOVAKIA. OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO GATHER
INFORMATION FROM EU INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCE IN THIS
SECTOR. IN ADDITION THEY ARE PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE FIELD TESTS
SINCE SOME COMPANIES HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS INTEREST. FIELD
TESTS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL
INSPECTION AND TESTING INSTITUTE. IN MID-MARCH, THREE EU
REGULATIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED IN SLOVAKIA. GMOS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ORGANIC

FARMING. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) FEBRUARY 24, 1998, VIENNA-BASED AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST WALTER KRUCSAY HELD A MEETING AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION AND TESTING INSTITUTE (CAITI) IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA, TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE SLOVAK BIOTECHNOLOGY SITUATION. SLOVAK PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED PAVEL FILKORN, DIRECTOR OF CAITI; MARGITA ANTOLIKOVA, SPECIALIST FOR FEED REGISTRATION OF CAITI; WLADIMIR SODOMA, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF VARIETIES OF CAITI; ROMAN HARVANIK, DEPARTMENT OF SEEDS OF CAITI; DR. LUBOMIR HORVATH, CHIEF OF BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORIES OF CAITI, BATOROVA BRONISLAVA, PLANT BREEDER RIGHTS DEPARTMENT OF CAITI; STEFAN PALACKA, HEAD OF PLANT PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY; ANDREA TURDA, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY; JAN KREIZ, RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PLANT PRODUCTION, PIESTANY; JAN TURNA, DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF UNIVERSITY BRATISLAVA; OTTAKAR KUDELA, INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; DR. PETER SIEKEL, SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF THE FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE; AND DR. JOSEF TIMKO, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

3. (U) CAITI IS AN OFFICIAL INSTITUTE WHERE TESTING AND REGISTRATION OF SEEDS AND PLANTING MATERIAL, FEEDSTUFF, PESTICIDES, AND FERTILIZERS ARE CARRIED OUT. IT IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY.

4. ~~for~~ MOST OF THE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY PAVOL FILKORN AND STEFAN PALACKA (PROTECT). THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS PROBABLY THE FACT THAT SLOVAKIA IS GOING TO IMPLEMENT EU REGULATIONS 90/220, EEC (NOVEL FOOD) 94/15 EC (AMENDMENT TO 90/220), AND 94/90EC (FEEDSTUFF). THESE REGULATIONS HAVE SIMPLY BEEN TRANSLATED AND WILL BE ADOPTED WITHOUT AMENDMENT. THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED MARCH 15, 1998 AND BECOME EFFECTIVE THE SAME DAY.

5. (SBU) IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER 1997, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST WERE INFORMED THAT SLOVAKIA IS WORKING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS WHICH WILL BE BASED ON EU REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, IN THE MEANTIME THE SLOVAKS CHANGED THEIR COLLECTIVE MIND AND INTEND SIMPLY TO APPLY FULLY THE EU REGULATIONS. THIS IS NO SURPRISE SINCE SLOVAKIA WANTS TO JOIN THE EU AND THUS, IN GENERAL, SEEKS TO HARMONIZE ITS REGULATIONS WITH THOSE OF BRUSSELS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT EU REGULATIONS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TO COME OUT LATER WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE.

6. (SBU) UP TO MARCH 15, 1998, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY REGULATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, SLOVAK PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING VAGUELY STATED THAT EU REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED.

7. (SBU) THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY RECENTLY COMPLETED A DRAFT REGULATION CONCERNING ORGANIC FARMING WHICH BANS THE USE OF GMOS IN THIS SECTOR. THE REGULATION MAY BECOME EFFECTIVE IN FALL 1998. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PALACKA, IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND AT PRESENT, ORGANIC FARMERS HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO USE GMOS.

8. (U) FIELD TESTS WITH GMOS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY CAITI, WHICH HAS MANY TEST FIELDS IN ALL SOIL AND CLIMATIC REGIONS. TESTS ON PRIVATE FIELDS ARE NOT PERMITTED. ALL FIELD RELEASES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY. COMPANIES INTERESTED IN SUCH TESTS HAVE TO APPLY AT CAITI AND PROVIDE AT THE SAME TIME DOCUMENTS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PRODUCT AND RESULTS OF THEIR OWN TESTS. IF TESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES, CAITI WILL ASK FOR
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 001776

FROM REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2008
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, LO
SUBJECT: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION
- IN SLOVAKIA

INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE PRODUCT.

9. (U) CAITI IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TESTING AND REGISTRATION OF GMO SEEDS AND GMO FEEDSTUFFS. IN REGARD TO FEEDSTUFF INCLUDING GMO FEEDSTUFF, CAITI COOPERATES WITH THE STATE VETERINARY AUTHORITY.

10. (SBU) SO FAR, NO GMO TESTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN SLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, THREE COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN FIELD TESTS. AGREVO IS INTERESTED IN TESTS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEED AND DEKALB IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN FIELD TESTS. PIONEER HAS RECENTLY APPLIED FOR FIELD TESTS WITH A BT CORN AND AN HERBICIDE RESISTANT CORN STRAIN. DUE TO THE FACT THAT SLOVAK AUTHORITIES HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH RELEASE APPLICATIONS, NO FIELD TESTS CAN BE HELD IN 1998. ACCORDING TO PIONEER, TESTS FOR 1999 MAY BE PERMITTED BUT NO ASSURANCE IS GIVEN.

11. ~~(c)~~ SINCE ECOLOGICAL GROUPS ARE NOT EXISTENT OR AT LEAST NOT VISIBLE, NO ANTI-BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES HAVE TAKEN PLACE I SLOVAKIA SO FAR. THUS, THE POPULATION HAS PAID LITTLE OR NO ATTENTION TO GMOS. IN ADDITION, GIVEN THE STILL-LOW LIVING STANDARD, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED WITH EVERYDAY DIFFICULTIES AND NOT WITH "LUXURY" PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FROM HUNGARY AND PARTICULARLY AUSTRIA, WHERE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONG, BECOMING ACTIVE IN SLOVAKIA AND THUS STIRRING UP EMOTIONS. (COMMENT: SIMILAR ACTIVITIES BY AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSING ON ANTI-NUCLEAR SENTIMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPERIENCED AT ATOMIC POWER PLANTS IN SLOVAKIA.) TO AVERT DISSEMINATION OF MISINFORMATION BY THESE GROUPS, OFFICIALS INTEND TO CARRY OUT AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN BEFORE GMOS ARE RELEASED.

12. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE MEETING WAS THAT SLOVAK OFFICIALS ARE ONLY VAGUELY INFORMED ABOUT THE GMO SITUATION AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MIND HOW TO HANDLE BIOTECHNOLOGY. ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING HELD THE OPINION THAT SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS AND IMPORTED SOYBEAN PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR FOODS ARE GMO FREE. THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT THE U.S., ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL ARE ALREADY GROWING AND CRUSHING GMO BEANS ON A LARGE SCALE WHICH ARE MIXED WITH CONVENTIONAL BEANS. SLOVAKS CAN STILL AFFORD TO NEGLECT GMO MATTERS SINCE THEY HAVE NOT YET BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE. SLOVAKIA HAS NO EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING PRODUCTS FOR GMO CONTENT, HAS NOT YET SET UP A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND HAS NO REGULATIONS FOR GMOS IN FOOD OR LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE METHODS BY WHICH THESE ISSUES ARE HANDLED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. FILKORN SHOWED AGSPECIALIST A LIST OF INSTITUTES IN EU COUNTRIES WHICH THEY ARE PLANNING TO CONTACT IN ORDER TO LEARN FROM THEM. THE GREAT INTEREST IN OTHER COUNTRIES' SYSTEMS IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT A LARGE PART OF THE TWO-HOUR MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO EXTRACTING INFORMATION FROM THE AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST ON HOW BIOTECHNOLOGY IS HANDLED IN AUSTRIA. END COMM ENT.
HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 1776
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SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA1635 0611651-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 021651Z MAR 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME

OSRI: RUEHRO

DTG: 021651Z MAR 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1544
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0083
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0138
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0493
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0001

INFO: ////

SUBJ: GMO CORN VOTE IN ITALY

TEXT:

UNCLAS ROME 001635

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT

SUBJECT: GMO CORN VOTE IN ITALY

REF: A) BRUSSELS 00891, B) ROME 97/10121

1. AGOFFICE WAS INFORMED BY DIRECTOR
GENERAL BATTAGLINO OF THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH THAT ITALY WILL LIKELY VOTE IN
FAVOR OF THE 4 GMO CORN DOSSIERS
CURRENTLY UP FOR MEMBER STATE APPROVAL.
ITALY VOTED IN FAVOR OF MONSANTO'S BT
CORN DOSSIER LAST FALL (REF B) AND HAS
GENERALLY BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S.
POSITION ON GMO'S. FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1635

TOR: 980302124753 M3176306

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 031221Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 031221Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3870
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0257
SUBJ: CONFERENCE ON GMO TRACING AND LABELING

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 004796

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGAVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON GMO TRACING AND LABELING

1. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR NUTRITION (IFN) RECENTLY ORGANIZED A CONFERENCE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MAJOR SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS, ONE OF FRANCE'S LEADING SEED COMPANY, AND THE FRENCH FOOD INDUSPY AOCIATION. THEY FOCUSED ON THE VALUE AND METHOD OF TRACING AND LABELING GMOS, ASSUMING THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE.
2. OPINIONS RANGED FROM DETECTING GMOS AND GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS ACCORDING TO THE DNA OF THIS GMO TO DETECTING GMO SPECIFIC PROTEINS IN A DEFINED LIST OF FOOD INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM SOYBEANS AND CORN. THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH TO THIS

ISSUE BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND CONSUMERS WHEN THE AUDIENCE RAISED QUESTIONS AFTER THE FORMAL SPEECHES. ON ONE HAND, SCIENTISTS EXPLAINED WHAT THEY COULD DO AND EFFECTIVELY DID AT THE RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY LEVEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSUMERS WONDERED ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF SUCH DEBATE, REITERATING THAT THEY NEVER ASKED TO HAVE GMOS ON THEIR PLATE, AND THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY IS GOOD TO PRODUCE MEDICINES TO SAVE LIVES, BUT NOT NECESSARY IN FOOD PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

3. COMMENT: THE DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED BY SCIENTISTS AND INDUSTRIALS TO EXPLAIN CONSUMERS THEIR METHODS TO TRACE AND LABEL GMO DERIVED PRODUCTS IN FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE QUESTIONS AND POINTS RAISED BY CONSUMERS ON THE RELEVANCE OF HAVING GMOS IN FOOD, DURING THE CONFERENCE, REFLECTS VERY WELL THE SITUATION OF THE FRENCH POPULATION, WHO HAS MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT GMOS. IN FACT, THE MAJORITY OF FRENCH CONSUMERS STILL DO NOT KNOW WHAT A GMO IS AND ARE AFRAID THAT EATING GMOS DAMAGES THEIR HEALTH. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE STRONG NEED FOR THE NATIONAL DEBATE ON GMOS PROMISED BY THE GOF IN NOVEMBER 1997, AND LIKELY TO OCCUR IN JUNE 1998. END COMMENT.

4. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WERE THE FOLLOWING: ALAIN COLENO, ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FRENCH INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH IN AGRONOMY (INRA); SOFIA BEN TAHAR, DIRECTOR FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGIES IN THE FRENCH SEED COMPANY LIMAGRAIN; FRANCOISE GUILLON, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH CONSUMER ASSOCIATION UFCV; THIERRY GESLAIN, HEAD OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICE IN THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF FOOD INDUSTRIES (ANIA); AND NICOLE ZYLBERMANN, HEAD OF THE HYGIENE DIVISION IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR COMPETITIVENESS, CONSUMPTION AND FRAUDS (DGCCRF) IN THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE.

THE VALUE OF TRACING AND LABELING GMOS

5. COLENO INSISTED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE AN ABSOLUTE ABSENCE OF GMOS (OR GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS) IN FOOD PRODUCTS UNLESS GMOS ARE TOTALLY FORBIDDEN IN THE FOOD MARKET. HIS SUGGESTION WAS THAT ONE SHOULD FIX A THRESHOLD OF DETECTION (IN PERCENTAGE OF CONTENTS) AND A SENSITIVITY OF THE METHOD (IN NUMBER OF ANALYSIS NECESSARY). COLENO INDICATED THAT THE THRESHOLD OF 1 PERCENT SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY FOR THE INDUSTRY.

6. GUILLON CALLED FOR AN "ABSOLUTE TRANSPARENCY" ON GMOS AND PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMOS. HE SAID THAT GMO LABELING IS ESSENTIAL AND STATED THAT THE EU COMMISSION'S "MAY CONTAIN GMOS" PROPOSAL WAS

NOT ACCEPTABLE. UFCS REJECTS LABELING THAT CONTAINS THE WORD "BIOTECHNOLOGY" BECAUSE IT INCLUDES "BIO," WHICH INDICATES AN ORGANIC PRODUCT IN FRENCH. UFCS FEARS THAT CONSUMERS WILL BE CONFUSED BY THE MEANINGS OF THESE TWO TERMS. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 004796

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR
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GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON GMO TRACING AND LABELING

FINALLY, UFCS CALLS FOR "LABELING OIL AND LECITHIN WITH THE PHRASE "DERIVED FROM GMOS."

THE METHOD OF TRACING AND LABELING GMOS

7. BEN TAHAR DESCRIBED LIMAGRAIN'S SYSTEM OF TRACEABILITY THROUGHOUT THE SEED PRODUCTION PROCESS, INCLUDING SELECTION, MULTIPLICATION, PRODUCTION, AND MARKETING OF SEEDS. AT EVERY STEP, LIMAGRAIN TRACES THE "EVENT OF TRANSFORMATION" PROVIDED BY THE GENETIC MODIFICATION OF A GMO PLANT. LIMAGRAIN IDENTIFIES THE EVENT OF TRANSFORMATION AND VERIFIES THAT IT REMAINS STABLE IN THE PLANT, THANKS TO MOLECULAR ANALYSIS. BEN TAHAR EXPLAINED THAT LIMAGRAIN STRICTLY RESPECTS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE FRENCH AND EUROPEAN REGULATIONS FOR MARKETING APPROVAL OF GMOS AND GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS. ACCORDING TO BEN TAHAR, THIS TRACEABILITY PROCESS OF GMO SEEDS IS TRANSPARENT AND ASSURES USERS' TRUST IN LIMAGRAIN'S PRODUCTS.

8. COLENO FAVORED THE DETECTION OF GMOS THROUGH THE DETECTION OF THEIR DNA IN FOOD PRODUCTS. NOTE: IN DECEMBER 1997, COLENO PRESENTED A REPORT TO THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES CONCLUDING THAT GMOS ARE DETECTABLE DUE TO THE POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) METHOD. FOR FF 1,600 (USD 274) PER ANALYSIS, PCR DETECTS A PART OF DNA THAT IS SPECIFIC TO A GIVEN GMO, WITH THE HELP OF A GENETIC PROBE SPECIFIC TO THIS PART OF DNA OF THE GMO. IN FRANCE, FOUR LABORATORIES

HAVE SUCH PROBES. THESE ARE GEVES IN GUYANCOURT CITY (CLOSE TO PARIS), INRA'S LABORATORY FOR GRAIN TECHNOLOGY IN MONTPELLIER (CLOSE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA), DGCCRF'S LABORATORY IN STRASBOURG (CLOSE TO THE GERMAN FRONTIER), AND INRA'S LABORATORY FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY IN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRONOMY (INA) IN PARIS-GRIGNON. END NOTE.

9. GESLAIN FIRST STATED THAT ANIA PREFERS TO DETECT GMO PROTEINS, RATHER THAN GMO DNA, IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OF GMO (OR GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS) IN A FOOD PRODUCT. SECOND, GESLAIN EXPLAINED THAT, TO LABEL PRODUCTS, ANIA OPTED FOR THE "A PRIORI" METHOD, CONSISTING OF LABELING SYSTEMATICALLY A LIST OF INGREDIENTS THAT CONTAIN GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS, RATHER THAN THE "A POSTERIORI" METHOD, CONSISTING IN DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN ALL FOOD PRODUCTS. ANIA CONSIDERS THAT THE "A POSTERIORI" METHOD IS MORE COMPLEX AND COSTLY THAN THE "A PRIORI" METHOD.

10. THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS PROPOSED TO BE LABELED BY ANIA IS THE FOLLOWING, PROVIDED THAT THEY CONTAIN THE PROTEIN PRODUCED BY THE TRANSGENE: (1) SOYBEAN MEALS, PROTEINS AND THEIR DERIVED PRODUCTS, (2) SOYBEAN EXTRACTS CONTAINING PROTEINS (SUCH AS TOFU), (3) CORN MEAL, (4) CORN SEMOLINA AND (5) CORN GLUTEN. NOTE: THE TRANSGENE IS THE GENE TRANSFERRED TO A PLANT THAT MAKES THIS PLANT A GMO. END NOTE. ANIA PROPOSES THAT THE INGREDIENTS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN THE PROTEIN DERIVED FROM THE TRANSGENE SHOULD NOT BE LABELED.

11. ANIA PROPOSES THAT THE LABELING TEXT BE THE FOLLOWING: "MODIFIED BY MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY," "GENETICALLY MODIFIED, "DERIVED FROM GMO," OR "GMO." ANIA DOES NOT RECOMMEND THE "MAY CONTAIN" WORDING. ALSO, IF GMOS AND NON GMOS ARE MIXED, ANIA RECOMMENDS A POSITIVE LABELING AS GMOS. FINALLY, ANIA PROPOSES TO LIMIT THE LABELING "DOES NOT CONTAIN GMOS" TO THE CASES WHERE ONE CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES HAVE NOT BEEN USED AT ANY STEP OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 4796
<^SSN>4796
TOR: 980303073210 M3177794
<^TOR>980303073322 M3177796
DIST:
SIT: BOONE KYLE LEE MCELLOWNEY TARULLO VP
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA1301 0621500-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 031500Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 031500Z MAR 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: GMO APPROVAL VOTE POSTPONED

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001301

FAS FOR ITP/THORN/CHESEY
FAS FOR ITP/OFSTS FOR SLUTSKY
OAA FOR GALVIN
CMP/GF/RADLER
CMP/OP/BLUM
APHIS FOR TMEDLEY, PPQ/MSCHECTMAN
STATE PASS USTR/MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO APPROVAL VOTE POSTPONED

1. SUMMARY: THE NEXT STEP IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED U.S. CORN HAS BEEN POSTPONED. A VOTE BY MEMBER-STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE) HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 11 TO MARCH 18, PUSHING THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF IMPORTS OF U.S. CORN BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) HAS POSTPONED BY ONE WEEK TO MARCH 18 A MEETING OF MEMBER-STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE) WHO WILL VOTE ON ACCEPTING APPROVAL UNDER EU REGULATION 90/220 OF THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES. THE REASON GIVEN WAS TO ALLOW THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

3. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON PLANTS ON FEBRUARY 10 DETERMINED THAT THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN (ONE EACH FROM MONSANTO, NOVARTIS AND AGREVO) AS WELL AS A RAPESEED, POSED NO RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT OR HUMAN HEALTH. THE NEXT STEP IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE WHERE MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES CAST WEIGHTED VOTES; A QUALIFIED MAJORITY IS NECESSARY TO PASS. U.S. CORN FROM THE 1997 HARVEST CANNOT BE IMPORTED UNTIL THE THREE VARIETIES ARE APPROVED.

4. THE COMMITTEE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET MARCH 11, BUT BECAUSE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S REPORT WAS NOT OFFICIALLY RELEASED UNTIL FEBRUARY 16, IT FELL SHORT OF THE NORMAL PERIOD FOR COMMENT BY THE EP. AS ALL DECISIONS UNDER 90/220 ARE CO-CISIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT, THE COMMISSION CHOSE TO POSTPONE THE VOTE. THE EP ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET MARCH 17.

5. IF THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTES POSITIVELY, THE RULE MUST BE PUBLISHED, THEN GET FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBER STATE AUTHORITY WHERE THE APPLICATION WAS FIRST SUBMITTED --IN THIS CASE UK OR FRANCE. THE RULE THEN BECOMES FINAL. THIS PROCESS TAKES AT LEAST TWO WEEKS AFTER THE ARTICLE 21 VOTE.

6. ONCE THE RULE IS FINAL, U.S. CORN EXPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION COULD RESUME. DG VI (AGRICULTURE) HAS DELAYED RE-OPENING THE SPECIAL SPANISH CORN IMPORT QUOTA UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS ARE KNOWN.

7. COMMENT: ANOTHER WEEK'S DELAY IN THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS IS HARDLY WELCOME, BUT COMMISSION SOURCES SAY THAT OFFENDING THE EP BY RUSHING THROUGH AN APPROVAL WITHOUT COMMENT COULD CREATE POLITICAL RISKS FOR FUTURE PRODUCT APPROVALS. A RUMOR THAT THE VOTE WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS CANNOT BE CONFIRMED. END COMMENT.

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1301

TOR: 980303111000 M3178219

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHDLA1196 0631604-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 041604Z MAR 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

OSRI: RUEHDL

DTG: 041604Z MAR 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2998

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0042

SUBJ: IRELAND LIKELY TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBLIN 001196

GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, EI

SUBJECT: IRELAND LIKELY TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN

REF: (A) USEU 891 (B) 97 DUBLIN 6997

1. ACTION REQUEST AT PARA. 5.

2. DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ECONOMIC DIVISION OFFICER DERMOT O'MAHONY REPORTED MARCH 3 THAT IRELAND IS LIKELY TO ABSTAIN AT THE UPCOMING MARCH 18 AGRICULTURE COUNCIL VOTE TO RATIFY THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF GMO CORN VARIETIES (REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO O'MAHONY, THE IRISH POSITION IS BEING DRIVEN BY THE POLITICAL PROBLEM RESULTING FROM THE PRESENT MINISTER'S STRONG STANCE AGAINST APPROVAL OF GMO FOOD PRODUCTS DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO O'MAHONY, THE DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS NOW TRYING TO DEVELOP A NEW POSITION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE MINISTER TO DEMONSTRATE SOME FLEXIBILITY.

3. O'MAHONY'S REPORT CONFIRMS PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING (REF B) THAT IRELAND WAS UNLIKELY TO VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF NEW GMOS -- DESPITE CLEAR SUPPORT INSIDE THE CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS.

4. MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS CONTACTED EMBASSY DCM ON MARCH 4 TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT AN IRISH ABSTENTION WOULD HAVE ON THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL'S VOTE. ACCORDING TO THESE REPRESENTATIVES, IRELAND'S ABSTENTION IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE VOTE REGARDING MONSANTO'S

APPLICATION, BUT IT COULD AFFECT THE VOTE ON THE OTHER
PENDING APPLICATIONS (NOVARTIS AND AGREVO).

5. EMBASSY INTENDS TO AGAIN RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH IRISH
OFFICIALS, BUT RECOMMENDS THAT USTR CONSIDER CONTACTING
IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REGARDING U.S. CONCERNS AS WELL.
TO ASSIST EMBASSY IN REVISITING ISSUE WITH IRISH GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ANY UPDATED POINTS OR
BACKGROUND ON THE GMO CORN ISSUE SOONEST. SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1196

TOR: 980304114345 M3180386

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BOONE BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON KYLE LEE MCELDOWNEY TARULLO TODD
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHWLA0266 0632359-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 042359Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 042359Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6150
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0064
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3521
SUBJ: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

TEXT:

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000266

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP
STATE PASS USTR/STILLMAN
CANBERRA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTSD, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: 97 WELLINGTON 01687, 97 WELLINGTON 00188,
97 WELLINGTON 00477, 97 WELLINGTON 0754

1. THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) HAS RELEASED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON A STANDARD FOR THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS. THE STANDARD DEPARTS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE INITIAL PROPOSAL FLOATED IN APRIL 1996, WHICH HAD CONCERNED THE USG, AND RECOMMENDS LABELING ONLY FOR FOODS WHICH ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT." THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD CONTINUES TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF NOT ALLOWING THE SALE OF A GMF UNLESS APPROVED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WELLINGTON OFFICIALS SUGGEST THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC), MADE UP THE AUSTRALIAN STATE AND TERRITORY HEALTH MINISTERS AND THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH, WILL APPROVE THE REVISED REGULATION IN AN OUT-OF-SESSION DECISION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE REVISED PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY

BEING SUPPORTED BY THE GNZ AND A NEW STANDARD IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED NINE MONTHS AFTER APPROVAL IN ORDER TO ENABLE ANZFA TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC GMF APPLICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24 ANZFA MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON REGULATING GMF'S TO HEALTH MINISTERS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL RELEASED IN APRIL 1996, RECOMMENDATIONS DID NOT INCLUDE MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS. ANZFA CITED DIFFICULTIES IN TRACKING FOOD COMPONENTS THROUGH THE FOOD CHAIN, THE PROBLEM OF ENFORCING SUCH REQUIREMENTS EQUALLY FOR IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS, LIMITED EVIDENCE THAT LABELING WAS USEFUL FOR CONSUMERS, AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH WTO OBLIGATIONS AS REASONS FOR DROPPING MANDATORY LABELING.

4. (U) THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF NOT ALLOWING THE SALE OF A GMF UNLESS APPROVED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. APPROVAL IS TO FOCUS ON A RISK ASSESSMENT BASED ON SCIENTIFIC DATA AND INTERESTED PARTIES WILL HAVE NINE MONTHS AFTER ANZFSC APPROVAL TO HAVE THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDED ON A POSITIVE LIST BEFORE THE STANDARD IS IMPLEMENTED. THE PROPOSED STANDARD DOES NOT REGULATE FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS THAT ARE DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS BECAUSE OTHER STANDARDS ALREADY REQUIRE PREMARKET APPROVAL FOR THESE ITEMS.

5. (SBU ALTHOUGH THE ANZFSC HAS A RANGE OF OPTIONS INCLUDING TO ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT THE ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS, THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MET POSITIVELY BY JOHN DELAMERE, NZ ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND'S REPRESENTATIVE TO ANZFSC. DELAMERE REPLACED NEIL KIRTON AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER IN A CABINET SHUFFLE LATE LAST YEAR. (KIRTON HAD BEEN AN UNPREDICTABLE AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT PLAYER IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE ORIGINAL GMF PROPOSAL.) DELAMERE IS REPORTED TO HAVE VETTED THE ISSUE WITHIN CABINET AND RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT. EARLY ON, MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGRICULTURE LOCKWOOD SMITH WAS CONCERNED THAT THE NZ APPROACH TO REGULATING GMF'S REFLECT NEW ZEALAND'S BROADER TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

6. (SBU) PREDICTABLY, ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS WAS MET WITH DISAPPOINTMENT FROM ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO RESTRICT GMF'S. ALTHOUGH LOBBYING EFFORTS DIRECTED AT THE GOVERNMENT ARE UNDERWAY, CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE GNZ WILL APPROVE THE REGULATION IN AN OUT-OF-SESSION DECISION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0266

TOR: 980304190222 M3181199

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA5488 0691516-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 101516Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 101516Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4120
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0274
SUBJ: THREE FRENCH FARMERS SENTENCED TO JAIL
FOR DESTROYING NOVARTIS GMO CORN

TEXT: UNCLAS PARIS 005488

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/GF/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: THREE FRENCH FARMERS SENTENCED TO JAIL
FOR DESTROYING NOVARTIS GMO CORN

1. IN FEBRUARY, THREE FRENCH FARMERS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVERAL MONTHS IN PRISON AND DIRECTED TO PAY FF 500,000 (USD 85,600) TO NOVARTIS. THE FARMERS, WHO BELONGED TO THE RADICAL FARM UNION "CONFEDERATION PAYSANNE" (CP), DESTROYED NOVARTIS GMO CORN SEEDS IN JANUARY IN NERAC (LOT-ET-GARONNE REGION, SOUTHWEST FRANCE). THE DAMAGE TO THE COMPANY WAS ESTIMATED AT FF 6 TO 7 MILLION (USD 1 TO 1.2 MILLION). THE COMMUNIST FARM UNION (MODEF), THE RADICAL FARM UNION "COORDINATION RURALE," GREENPEACE, AND THE FRENCH ECOLOGIST PARTY "LES VERTS" DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE WHERE THE THREE FARMERS WERE

JUDGED.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, SEVERAL ASSOCIATIONS LAUNCHED AN ANTI-GMO CAMPAIGN IN PARIS, INCLUDING ECOLOGIST ORGANIZATIONS ("AGIR POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT", GREENPEACE, FRANCE NATURE ENVIRONNEMENT) AND CP. THEY CALLED FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE PRODUCTION, THE USE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS AND GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS, BUT NOT ON THE RESEARCH ON GMOS BECAUSE OF THE NEED "MEASURE THE RISKS AND THE IMPACT OF GMOS." THESE ORGANIZATIONS SENT NUMEROUS PETITIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSION IN CHARGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CHOICES (OPESCT), WHICH IS ORGANIZING THE FRENCH NATIONAL DEBATE ON GMOS.

3. FINALLY, CP WROTE A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FRENCH YOUNG FARMERS UNION (CNJA) AND THE LEADING FRENCH FARM UNION (FNSEA) ASKING THEM TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION ON GMOS (BOTH ARE MODERATE ON THE GMO ISSUE). THE PRESIDENTS JOINTLY RESPONDED THAT "THE POTENTIAL RISKS OF GMOS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT NEED TO BE MONITORED, GMO PRODUCTS HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A "BIO-VIGILANCE" SYSTEM (SURVEILLANCE NETWORK), CLEAR LABELING IS NECESSARY, AND FRENCH AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY HAVE TO BE DEFENDED AGAINST DISTORTIONS OF COMPETITION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. COMMENT: CP TRIED TO TURN THE CASE OF ITS THREE MEMBERS INTO A JUDGEMENT OF GMOS. HOWEVER, THE SENTENCING WAS PROBABLY STRONGER THAN CP EXPECTED, BECAUSE THE UNION HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE IT WAS PRONOUNCED. THIS ISSUE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED GMO OPPONENTS IN FRANCE AND DEMONSTRATES THE KIND OF ACTION THEY ARE READY TO TAKE. FINALLY, FNSEA AND CNJA, ALTHOUGH REMAINING CAUTIOUS, AFFIRMED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF THE USE OF GMOS IN FRANCE. END COMMENT.
ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5488

TOR: 980310101844 M3189331

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTHA1451 0701002-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 111002Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
OSRI: RUEHTH
DTG: 111002Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7476
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ENVIRONMENT NOT OPTIMISTIC ON GMO
CORN AND COTTON VARIETIES

TEXT:
UNCLAS ATHENS 001451

ROME PLEASE PASS TO AG ATTACHE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, GR
SUBJECT: DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ENVIRONMENT NOT OPTIMISTIC ON GMO
CORN AND COTTON VARIETIES

REF: BRUSSELS 00891

1. IN A MARCH 5 MEETING WITH REGIONAL AG MINCOUNS ELIZABETH BERRY, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT YIANNIS VOURNAS SAID THAT GREECE WILL LIKELY ABSTAIN FROM THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTE IN BRUSSELS ON BT CORN VARIETIES FROM MONSANTO, AGREVO, AND NOVARTIS. VOURNAS ADDED THAT THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, THEODOROS KOLIOPANOS, WOULD PROBABLY REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY ACTION THIS SEASON ON APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS OF MONSANTO'S ROUND-UP READY COTTON AND BT COTTON IN GREECE.

2. VOURNAS' COMMENTS WERE PARTICULARLY DISHEARTENING IN LIGHT OF POSITIVE OPINIONS ON TWO BT CORN VARIETIES FROM THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF SCIENTISTS, ACADEMICS, AND EXPERTS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT WHICH REVIEWS ALL GMO DOSSIERS AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEPUTY MINISTER KOLIOPANOS). IN ITS MARCH 5 MEETING, THE COMMITTEE SUBMITTED POSITIVE OPINIONS AT A CONCURRENT MEETING ON BT CORN FROM MONSANTO AND NOVARTIS; IT DID NOT SUBMIT A DEFINITIVE OPINION ON AGREVO'S BT CORN, REPORTEDLY, BECAUSE THE AGREVO REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNABLE TO SATISFACTORILY ANSWER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRODUCT. (NOTE: THE COMMITTEE ISSUED A NEGATIVE OPINION ON RAPESEED, CITING A DANGER OF CROSS-POLLINATION WITH INDIGENOUS VARIETIES. PRIVATELY, MOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADMIT THE DECISION WAS A POLITICAL ONE DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE CANOLA OIL'S COMPETITION WITH GREEK OLIVE OIL. END NOTE.) THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO SUBMIT POSITIVE OPINIONS ON

MONSANTO'S COTTON VARIETIES, ALTHOUGH A DATE HAS NOT BEEN SET TO REVIEW THE DOSSIERS. THE COMMITTEE VOTED POSITIVELY ON THE TWO COTTON DOSSIERS IN 1997, BUT DEPUTY MINISTER KOLIOPANOS REFUSED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATIONS, FORCING MONSANTO TO REFILE APPLICATIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S PLANTING SEASON.

3. WHEN PRESSED TO EXPLAIN WHY DEPUTY MINISTER KOLIOPANOS REFUSES TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THESE GMO PRODUCTS DESPITE POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, VOURNAS OFFERED TWO REASONS. FIRST, KOLIOPANOS AND VOURNAS ARE UNCONVINCED THAT GMO PRODUCTS HARBOR NO ILL EFFECTS IN THE LONG TERM. VOURNAS EXPLAINED THAT THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, DESPITE ITS GENERALLY POSITIVE OPINION ON THE SHORT-TERM SAFETY OF GMOS, CANNOT OFFER ANY SCIENTIFIC ASSURANCES THAT CONSUMER SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL NOT ARISE 20 OR 30 YEARS FROM NOW. (NOTE: VOURNAS NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO READ ANY STUDIES ON THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF GMOS FROM "UNBIASED" ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION OR OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS. END NOTE.)

4. SECONDLY, VOURNAS CLAIMED THAT HE AND KOLIOPANOS HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR GMOS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. VOURNAS SAID THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A BROADER JUSTIFICATION FROM MINAG FOR INTRODUCING GMOS TO GREECE BEYOND JUST "TECHNICAL REASSURANCES" -- IN PARTICULAR AN ANALYSIS OF WHY AND HOW GMOS WILL BENEFIT GREEK AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND WHAT SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS THE GOG COULD EXPECT FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE PRODUCTS. DESPITE SEVERAL REQUESTS FROM VOURNAS FOR THIS TYPE OF JUSTIFICATION, MINAG HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING, AND MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO STAND ALONE AND FACE PUBLIC CRITICISM FOR APPROVING GMOS. THEREFORE, DESPITE GENERALLY POSITIVE OPINIONS FROM THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, KOLIOPANOS WILL LIKELY INSTRUCT HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN BRUSSELS (WHO HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED) TO ABSTAIN FROM THE MARCH 18 VOTE ON BT CORN, AND HE INDICATED THAT HE WILL ALSO REFRAIN FROM APPROVING MONSANTO'S COTTON APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS THIS PLANTING SEASON.

5. IN AN EFFORT TO SATISFY HIS INTEREST IN A BROADER DEBATE OF THE MERITS OF GMOS IN GREECE, KOLIOPANOS HAS FORMED A NEW COMMITTEE OF "WISEMEN" TO DEBATE THE AGRICULTURAL, TRADE, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ETHICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. BERRY POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE SPS PROVISIONS OF THE WTO, ONLY THE PRODUCTS' SCIENTIFIC MERITS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. VOURNAS REPLIED THAT THIS NON-TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IS AN ADVISORY BODY ONLY AND WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE LEGAL AUTHORITY OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON A SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF EACH PRODUCT. THE "WISEMEN" COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, AS WELL AS ACADEMICS AND EVEN A MEMBER OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH. THE FIRST CLOSED-DOOR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9.

BURNS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1451

TOR: 980311050110 M3190885

DIST:

SIT: ANTHOLIS BROWN SANDALOW

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHMDA2514 0701157-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 111157Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
OSRI: RUEHMD
DTG: 111157Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9708
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SPAIN WILL VOTE FOR THE GMO CORN
VARIETIES

TEXT:

UNCLAS MADRID 002514

FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/CHESLEY, FSTD/BSLUTSKY
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, USTR, TBIO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN WILL VOTE FOR THE GMO CORN
VARIETIES

1. OFFICIALS FROM SPAIN'S BIO-SECURITY COMMITTEE
AND THE INTER-MINISTERIAL PANEL FOR GMO REVIEWS
AND APPROVALS HAVE ASSURED FAS THAT THEIR DELEGATE
WILL VOTE TO APPROVE THE GMO CORN VARIETIES AT THE
ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE ON MARCH 18.

2. APPARENTLY, THE DISCUSSIONS WERE QUITE HEATED
DURING THE INTER-MINISTERIAL PANEL'S
DELIBERATIONS, AS MIN OF HEALTH WAS STILL
INSISTING THAT THE VARIETIES CLEAR THE NOVEL FOODS
REGULATORY APPROVAL BEFORE THE GREEN LIGHT COULD
BE GIVEN UNDER 90/220. HOWEVER, OUR ALLIES FROM
MIN OF ENVIRONMENT REPORTEDLY CONVINCED HEALTH
THAT APPROVAL UNDER NOVEL FOODS WAS UNNECESSARY.
FURTHERMORE, MIN OF ENVIRONMENT REPS SHOWED THAT
THE COMPANIES HAD AT LEAST APPLIED UNDER NOVEL
FOODS, WHICH WAS ENOUGH TO OBTAIN MIN OF HEALTH'S
SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL. ROSSIN.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 2514
TOR: 980311070305 M3191043
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHDLA1391 0711456-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121456Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
DTG: 121456Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3047
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0049
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS
STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By PL NARA, Date 11/20/09
2016-0521-M (1.88)

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 DUBLIN 001391

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EI
SUBJECT: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS
STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

REFS: A) DUBLIN 01196 B) USEU 01301 C) DUBLIN 00837
D) 97 DUBLIN 06997

1. CLASSIFIED BY DCM MADELYN SPIRNAK - REASON 1.5 (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. ACTION REQUEST FOR FAS WASHINGTON SEE
PARA. 8. DCM DISCUSSED IRISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON
GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS), AND IN PARTICULAR
THE UPCOMING MARCH 18 EU VOTE ON GMO CORN STRAINS (REF B),
DURING A MEETING WITH GERALDINE TALLON, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT. IRELAND STILL INTENDS TO ABSTAIN AT THE MARCH
18 VOTE, LARGELY BECAUSE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DEMPSEY WILL
NOT APPROVE ANY PUBLIC STAND IN FAVOR OF GMOS FOLLOWING
HIS STATEMENTS DURING THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN CALLING
FOR MORE PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE GMO ISSUE (REF A).
ACCORDING TO TALLON (FULLY PROTECT), IRELAND'S ABSTENTION
IS NOT AN INDICATION OF OPPOSITION TO GMOS OR BIOTECH
DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL. AN ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY PAPER

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND SALE OF GMOS WILL BE PRESENTED TO DEMPSEY BY THE END OF MARCH AND, FOLLOWING HIS EXPECTED APPROVAL, THE PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, SATISFYING THE MINISTER'S PRE-ELECTION PLEDGES. TALLON BELIEVES IRISH PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMOS HAS BECOME MORE BALANCED IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT MADE REPEATED REFERENCE TO THE SUSPICIOUS ATTITUDES OF EUROPEAN PUBLICS TOWARD FOOD SAFETY REGULATORS WHICH THE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) OUTBREAK PRODUCED THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND WHICH MAKE THE GMO ISSUE MORE POLITICALLY-CHARGED IN IRELAND THAN IN THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

IMPLICATION OF IRELAND'S ABSTENTION ON GMO CORN

3. (U) DCM MET ON MARCH 9 WITH GERALDINE TALLON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS THE MARCH 18 EU VOTE ON GMO CORN STRAINS, U.S. CONCERNS OVER IRELAND'S PLANNED ABSTENTION AT THE VOTE, AND WHAT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS THE ABSTENTION CARRIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECH IN IRELAND. THIS WAS DCM'S SECOND MEETING WITH TALLON ON THE ISSUE IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS (REF D). DCM POINTED OUT TO TALLON THAT SINCE THEIR LAST MEETING THE EU SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED THE GMO CORN STRAINS SO THERE WAS NO SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE FOR ABSTAINING FROM AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON MARCH 18. THIS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WAS ABSTAINING AS A SIGN IT WAS MOVING AWAY FROM PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR BIOTECH RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY.

4. ~~(c)~~ TALLON, WHO IS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE FULL RANGE OF CURRENT BIOTECH ISSUES, ASSURED DCM THAT THE ABSTENTION ON GMO CORN DOES NOT REPRESENT AN IRISH POLICY DECISION REGARDING GMOS. THE ABSTENTION REFLECTS THE "POLITICAL REALITY" THAT THE CURRENT MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NOEL DEMPSEY, PLEDGED DURING THE 1997 ELECTION CAMPAIGN MORE PUBLIC DEBATE AND REVIEW OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY GMO USE AND DEVELOPMENT BEFORE FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. THE MINISTER IS TAKING A PRECAUTIONARY STANCE, GIVEN HIS ELECTION PLEDGES, AND DOES NOT WANT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO PUBLICLY ENDORSE GMOS IN ANY FORUM AT THIS TIME. AN ABSTENTION ON MARCH 18 IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MOVE AT THIS TIME.

5. (SBU) TALLON SAID THAT, IN REALITY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CHARGED WITH REVIEWING GMOS FOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT HAVE CONCLUDED THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ESTABLISHES THEIR USE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE. THE EU SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORTS ISSUED AS PART OF THE GMO CORN APPROVAL PROCESS HAD AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE IN THIS REGARD. AS TALLON HAD INDICATED PREVIOUSLY (REF D), MINISTER DEMPSEY HAS REQUESTED A POSITION PAPER FROM THE IRISH EPA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE IRISH AGENCIES SETTING FORTH VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. TALLON SAID THIS PAPER, WHICH WILL ENDORSE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF GMOS AS SAFE AND VALUABLE FOR IRISH AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMERS, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR THE MINISTER'S REVIEW BY THE END OF MARCH. FOLLOWING HIS EXPECTED APPROVAL, THE PAPER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AND SERVE

AS THE BASIS FOR A ROUND OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DEBATE ON THE ISSUE, WHICH WILL MEET THE MINISTER'S ELECTION PLEDGES OF OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE. TALLON EXPECTED THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND COMMENT PERIOD TO LAST UNTIL THE AUTUMN, AT WHICH TIME THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ISSUE A FINAL STATEMENT SETTING FORTH A BIOTECH POLICY.

PUBLIC MOOD IS CHANGING ON GMOS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 DUBLIN 001391

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EI

SUBJECT: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS
STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

6. (U) TALLON ASSERTED THAT THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMOS AND OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES HAS "MOVED ALONG" OVER THE LAST MONTHS, AND THOUGH STILL AN ISSUE AMONG THE PUBLIC, ATTITUDES HAVE BECOME MORE "BALANCED." TALLON CITED RECENT ARTICLES AND STATEMENTS BY PROFESSORS AND EXPERTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRINITY COLLEGE, INCLUDING AN UPCOMING PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON "400 YEARS OF GENETIC RESEARCH AT TRINITY COLLEGE" AS MOVING THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN FAVOR OF GMO USE. TALLON AGREED WITH DCM THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM A NOTED IRISH FOOD WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE FOOD SAFETY BOARD, WHICH WERE HOSTILE TO GMO-PRODUCED FOOD AND WIDELY REPORTED IN THE IRISH PRESS (REF C), WERE "UNFORTUNATE," BUT TRIED TO DOWNPLAY THEM BY POINTING OUT THAT THE COMMENTS FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR PUBLIC DEBATE, NOT A BLANKET CONDEMNATION OF GMOS.

7. (U) THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, TALLON STRESSED THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THE BSE OUTBREAK ON THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC'S TRUST IN GOVERNMENT CONSUMER AND FOOD-SAFETY REGULATORS. UNLIKE THE U.S., SHE POINTED OUT, WHERE THE FDA IS VIEWED AS TRUSTWORTHY, EUROPEAN REGULATORS FACED A "BSE CULTURE" IN WHICH THE PUBLIC MISTRUSTED ANY GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON FOOD SAFETY. MOREOVER THERE IS A STRONG PUBLIC BELIEF THAT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES CANNOT PREDICT THE IMPACT THAT NEW GMO-STRAINS MIGHT HAVE ON PUBLIC SAFETY OVER A TWENTY OR THIRTY YEAR PERIOD. IT WAS THIS CULTURE IN WHICH HER DEPARTMENT AND MINISTER OPERATE AND WHY PUBLIC DEBATE IS NEEDED.

8. (U) TALLON SAID THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL FOR HER MINISTRY IF THEY COULD OBTAIN A "USER-FRIENDLY" DESCRIPTION OF THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO PLANT

STRAINS AND GMO-PRODUCED FOOD ITEMS. UNDERSTANDING THE FDA PROCESS FOR APPROVING "END" FOOD PRODUCTS FROM GMOS WOULD HELP IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE OVER PERMITTING THE SALE OF U.S. GMO-PRODUCED FOODS IN IRELAND. ACTION REQUEST: EMBASSY REQUESTS FAS PROVIDE SOONEST ANY BACKGROUND OR TALKING POINTS, AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE, THAT OUTLINE FDA APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO PLANT STRAINS AND FOR FOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCED FROM SUCH STRAINS. END ACTION REQUEST.

OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES

9. (U) ON THE ISSUE OF LABELING RETAIL FOOD GOODS CONTAINING GMOS, TALLON SAID THAT IRELAND STILL AWAITED FINAL EU ACTION ON THE ISSUE, BUT COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN SUCH ACTION WOULD OCCUR GIVEN THE DIFFICULT SITUATION THE EU FINDS ITSELF IN BECAUSE OF THE BANS IMPOSED BY AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG. CLEARLY, THOUGH, THE ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE AUSTRIAN EU PRESIDENCY OR ELSE IT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT RESOLUTION IN 1999 BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR AUSTRIA TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE DURING ITS PRESIDENCY. IN THE MEANTIME, TALLON WELCOMED RECENT VOLUNTARY LABELING GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE IRISH FOOD AND BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION (SEPTTEL), WHICH INDUSTRY HAD ADOPTED IN THE ABSENCE OF EU GUIDELINES. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN POSITIONS ON GMO LABELING DIFFERED, BUT CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EU NOT TO IMPOSE A LABELING REQUIREMENT ON FOODSTUFFS WITH GMOS, DESPITE THE HARDSHIP THIS IMPOSES ON U.S. PRODUCERS WHO OFTEN CANNOT SEGREGATE GMO-PRODUCED HARVESTS FROM NON-GMO PRODUCTION.

10. (C) TALLON TOLD THE DCM THAT THE IRISH EPA'S REVIEW OF MONSANTO CORPORATION'S APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT PLANT TRIALS OF GMO SUGARBEET STRAINS, IN WEXFORD COUNTY, IS NEARING COMPLETION (REF C). TALLON SAID THERE WAS SOME FRUSTRATION ON THE PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER THAT MONSANTO HAD PUSHED FORWARD WITH APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT PLANT TESTS AT OVER TEN DIFFERENT SITES. GIVEN THE PUBLIC CONCERN, TALLON REMARKED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEST FOR MONSANTO TO CONDUCT LIMITED TRIALS AT THE ONE SITE ALREADY APPROVED FOR SUCH TESTS IN IRELAND, A BOTANICAL RESEARCH CENTER, OR NOT TEST THEM AT ALL IN IRELAND BUT RELY ON TESTS CONDUCTED ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE TO MAKE THE CASE FOR APPROVAL TO PLANT IN IRELAND. TALLON AGREED WITH DCM'S POINT THAT CONVINCING IRISH FARMERS OF THE STRAINS' SUITABILITY LIKELY REQUIRED TESTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN IRELAND, BUT WONDERED IF THE RESULTING BAD PRESS OVER THE ISSUE HAD UNDERCUT ANY CHANCE MONSANTO NOW HAD TO MARKET THE STRAINS IN IRELAND.

COMMENT

11. (U) IT IS CLEAR IRELAND IS NOT GOING TO VOTE IN
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 DUBLIN 001391

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS USTR

STATE PASS FDA
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EI
SUBJECT: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS
STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

FAVOR OF NEW GMO APPLICATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING, DESPITE
EARLIER PLEDGES TO EXAMINE EACH ON A "CASE BY CASE" BASIS
(REF C). EMBASSY DOES NOT SHARE AS STRONGLY TALLON'S
BELIEF THAT PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD GMOS ARE BECOMING
MORE "BALANCED" AND NOTES THAT THE MARCH 11 IRISH TIMES
RAN A PAGE 2 STORY WITH THE HEADLINE "TAMPERING WITH BEET
IS THREAT TO NATURE, FARMERS SAY" AND GIVING PROMINENCE
TO ANTI-GMO VIEWS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE THE IRISH
GOVERNMENT ON THE GMO ISSUE. SPIRNAK

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 1391
<^SSN>1391
<^SSN>1391

TOR: 980312101641 M3193458
<^TOR>980312101743 M3193461
<^TOR>980312101917 M3193465

DIST:
SIT: BUTLER
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHHEA1390 0751429-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 161429Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
OSRI: RUEHHE
DTG: 161429Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7265
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0019
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: FINLAND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF GMO CORN APPROVAL
AT MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTE

TEXT:

UNCLAS HELSINKI 001390

STOCKHOLM FOR REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF GMO CORN APPROVAL
AT MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTE

REF: STATE 45312

DEMARCHÉ POINTS IN REFTEL WERE MADE TO IRMA SALOVUORI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FINNISH GMO BOARD, ON MARCH 13, 1998. POST WAS NOTIFIED BY SALOVUORI ON MARCH 16, 1998 THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL OF THE THREE VARIETIES OF CORN IN QUESTION. SALOVUORI INDICATED THAT SHE WOULD PERSONALLY BE PARTICIPATING IN THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING, AND THAT FINLAND'S POSITIVE VOTE WAS ASSURED.

CLEVERLEY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 1390
TOR: 980316203246 M3199453
DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHCAA6668 0751723-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 161720Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 161720Z MAR 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 9765
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: FRENCH OPPOSITION TO GMO'S BLOCKING EU APPROVAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-m (1.89)

TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 046668

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/15/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH OPPOSITION TO GMO'S BLOCKING EU APPROVAL

REF: (A) STATE 45312, (B) USEU BRUSSELS 1304

CLASSIFIED BY: E. ANTHONY WAYNE, EUR PDAS. REASONS FOR
CLASSIFICATION: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ REF A ASKS POSTS TO STRESS TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MEMBER STATES APPROVE THREE U.S. GENETICALLY-MODIFIED (GMO) CORN VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING. FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION OF REF A, WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE LEARNED THAT FRANCE MAY ABSTAIN FROM THE MARCH 18 VOTE. AS FRANCE HOLDS 10 OF THE 62 VOTES NEEDED FOR A QUALIFIED MAJORITY, ITS ABSTENTION COULD PREVENT APPROVAL OF THE THREE CORN VARIETIES.

2. ~~(C)~~ REPORTEDLY THE FRENCH FINANCE AND TRADE MINISTRIES FAVOR APPROVAL OF THE THREE VARIETIES, THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY IS AGAINST, AND THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A DECISION ON

MARCH 17. AGENCIES APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS AMEMBASSY PARIS HAS ALREADY MADE ON THIS ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT POST HAS ALREADY FOLLOWED UPON REF A AND ASK THAT POST CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS MATTER A HIGH PRIORITY.

3. ~~(C)~~ AS NOTED REF A, THIS COMMISSION-LEVEL SCIENTIFIC REVIEW FOLLOWS A SIMILAR REVIEW AT THE MEMBER STATE LEVEL, WHICH APPROVED ALL THREE VARIETIES. WITH TWO SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS COMPLETED AND NO PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED, THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR FRANCE OR OTHER MEMBER STATES TO VOTE

AGAINST APPROVAL OF THESE THREE VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING. BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN APPROVING THESE CORN VARIETIES, THE U.S. HAS ALREADY LOST OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL MAIZE TO SPAIN UNDER A QUOTA ESTABLISHED TO COMPENSATE THE UNITED STATES FOR TRADE LOST AS A RESULT OF SPANISH ACCESSION TO THE EU. FAILURE TO APPROVE THE THREE CORN VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 MEETING COULD DISRUPT UP TO USD 1.2 BILLION IN U.S. CORN EXPORTS, AND WOULD CREATE A MAJOR TRADE DISPUTE.

4. ~~(C)~~ PLEASE REPORT ON HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO POST'S APPROACHES.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6668

TOR: 980316130604 M3198766

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BOONE BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON KYLE LEE MCELLOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHSMA1586 0761625-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 171625Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 171625Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1312
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: EU COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO INSTITUTE MONITORING
REGIME COMPLICATES SWEDEN'S GMO CORN VOTE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0574-22 (1.90)

TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STOCKHOLM 001586

DEPT. FOR EUR/ERA AND EUR/NB

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USDA FAS

USDA FOR OSEC/PDRAZEK, ITP/EAMED/CTHORN, ITP/FSTS/LHARBERT,
CMP/GFD/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER, FAA/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/17/08

TAGS: ETRD EAGR EUN SW

SUBJECT: EU COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO INSTITUTE MONITORING
REGIME COMPLICATES SWEDEN'S GMO CORN VOTE

REF: STATE 47160

1. (U) THIS CABLE IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY ACTING
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ERIC BENJAMINSON. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND
(D).

2. () FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, DCM, AG COUNSELOR, AND
A/ECON COUNSELOR URGED THE SWEDES TO REVERSE THEIR
ABSTENTION ON THE AGREVO VARIETY G-M CORN FOR THE VOTES
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18. WE SPOKE DIRECTLY WITH STATE
SECRETARY YVONNE GUSTAFSSON AT THE TRADE MINISTRY; STATE
SECRETARY MADELEINE EMERWALD AT THE AG MINISTRY; AND THE
HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION
ARNE RODIN. WE REINFORCED THIS MESSAGE WITH MINAG'S HEAD OF
SECTION FOR GMO ISSUES.

3. ~~(C)~~ BY COB LOCAL TIME, WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE
TO OUR URGENT DEMARCHES:

-- THE GOS ASKED THE EU COMMISSION IN EARLY 1997 TO SET UP A
SPECIAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR HERBICIDE-RESISTANT CORN
VARIETIES TO ADDRESS GOVERNMENTAL AND CONSUMER CONCERNS

ABOUT THESE VARIETIES. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT DONE SO.
(COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS FROM LOCAL PARTIES THAT THE
EU MAY ANNOUNCE A COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTE SUCH A PROGRAM IN
ADVANCE OF THE MARCH 18 VOTE. END COMMENT.)

-- IF THESE RUMORS ARE TRUE, SAY THE SWEDES, SUCH AN ACTION
BY THE COMMISSION WOULD CONSTITUTE "NEW CIRCUMSTANCES". IN
THIS CASE, THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE REP IN BRUSSELS
WOULD BE LEFT TO VOTE ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. (COMMENT: WE
NOTE THAT THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE'S ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION
TO THE SWEDISH MINAG WAS FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD APPROVAL OF
ALL CORN DOSSIERS. THUS, A LAST-MINUTE EU ANNOUNCEMENT OF A
MONITORING PROGRAM MIGHT TIP THE SWEDES IN OUR DIRECTION.
END COMMENT.)

-- THE GOS DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT CAN VOTE FOR A HERBICIDE-
RESISTANT TYPE OF CORN IN THE ABSENCE OF EU ACTION. THEY SAY
THAT THEY PROMISED THEIR OFFICIALS AND CONSUMERS THAT SUCH A
REGIME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, AND THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE
BRUSSELS THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY DO NOT CARE ABOUT THE
ISSUE.

-- WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE GOS "IS NOT CONVINCED BY THE
FINDINGS OF THE EU'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ALONE REGARDING
HERBICIDE-RESISTANT CORN STRAINS." THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE
BEEN PUSHING FOR A SPECIAL MONITORING PROGRAM.

4. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: OUR DEMARCHES AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR GOT THE
SWEDES' ATTENTION. WE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THIS MAY/MAY
LEAD TO STOCKHOLM GIVING THEIR REP AT THE ARTICLE 21
COMMITTEE MEETING MORE FLEXIBILITY AND DISCRETIONARY
AUTHORITY. THE GOS, HOWEVER, IS INCLINED TO BLAME THE EU
COMMISSION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TAKING FIRMER ACTION BASED ON
THEIR OWN EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT
THERE ARE OTHER MEMBER STATES WHO WILL JOIN THEM IN MAKING
AN ISSUE OF THE UNINSTITUTED MONITORING REGIME. END COMMENT.

OLSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1586

TOR: 980317113824 M3200959

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON MCELDOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHBSA1688 0761804-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 171804Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 171804Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDCQE 7573
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0231
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0074
SUBJ: GMO CORN: BELGIUM LIKELY TO VOTE TO
APPROVE, BUT SUPPORT NOT CERTAIN

TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001688

QOOO
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

STATE PASS USDA FOR DRAZEK/FAS/ITP/OFS&TS AND
WEIAD AND CMP/G&F; PLETARTE/FAA;

STATE PASS TO USTR

GENEVA ALSO FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BE
SUBJECT: GMO CORN: BELGIUM LIKELY TO VOTE TO
APPROVE, BUT SUPPORT NOT CERTAIN

REF: A) STATE 45312 B) STATE 47160

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU SUMMARY: BELGIUM WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE
THREE US PRODUCTS UP FOR APPROVAL AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE
21 COMMITTEE IF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ACCEPTS THE
RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. HOWEVER, WE WERE
UNABLE TO CONFIRM WITH AG OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL DO SO,
AND HENCE, CANNOT BE SURE (AS REF B SUGGESTS) OF BELGIAN
SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

2. (SBU) EMBASSY DELIVERED USG COMMENTS ON THE UPCOMING
ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTE TO THE BELGIAN MINISTRIES OF

AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH JOINTLY DETERMINE BELGIUM'S POSITION; OFFICIALS FROM BOTH MINISTRIES WILL REPRESENT BELGIUM IN THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 18. TO DATE, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY EXPERT ON HOW TO VOTE.

3. (SBU) THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S EXPERT, DR. WILLIAM MOENS, TOLD US ON MARCH 17 THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT A POSITIVE VOTE ON THE THREE US PRODUCTS. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, "USUALLY" FOLLOWS HIS ADVICE. ASKED IF HE AGREES THAT THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS TO BLOCK THE APPROVAL OF THE THREE CORN VARIETIES, HE REPLIED THAT THE "THREE U.S. APPLICATIONS COVER ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS." MOENS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE EU COMMISSIONER AND HOW SHE HAS POSITIONED THIS ISSUE: "WE LOST NINE MONTHS" DUE TO ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS, HE SAID.

4. (SBU) THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S KEY OFFICIAL FOR QUESTIONS/ISSUES RELATED TO GMO'S AND THE BELGIAN AG REP IN ALL COMMISSION MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS ON GMO ISSUES, INSPECTOR ERIC LIEGEOIS, IS CURRENTLY IN THE US ON A IV GRANT. IN HIS ABSENCE, WE SPOKE TO MR.HOUINS, LIEGEOIS' SUPERVISOR, WHO IS LIKELY TO REPLACE HIM AT THE ARTICLE 21 MEETING. HOUINS REACTED SHARPLY, DECLINING TO SAY HOW BELGIUM WILL VOTE. HE SAID THE QUESTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE. THE US, IN TYPICAL FASHION, WAS "PRESSURING" THE EU. HOUINS SAID THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE THREE PRODUCTS IS INCOMPLETE AND LEAVES ROOM FOR QUESTIONS (ONE RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO DNA SPECIFICATIONS ON NEW GENETIC MATERIALS). HOUINS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DR. CELIE RENCKENS, WHO WORKS FOR MOENS AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WOULD ALSO ATTEND THE ARTICLE 21 MEETING AND THAT SHE WOULD VOTE.

5. (SBU) IN LIGHT OF HOUIN'S REACTION, WE FOLLOWED UP WITH THE COUNSELOR IN THE CABINET OF AG MINISTER PINXTEN WHO FOLLOWS GMO ISSUES, HARRY ARIJS. HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE VOTE AND COULD SHED NO LIGHT ON THE AG MINISTRY'S LIKELY FINAL POSITION. HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED REF A MESSAGE WITHOUT THE HOSTILITY EXHIBITED BY HOUINS AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND GET BACK TO US. AS OF COB ON MARCH 17, HE HAD NOT.

6. (SBU) THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE FULLY SUPPORTS APPROVAL, BUT BY ITS OWN ADMISSION, PLAYS NO ROLE IN THE PROCESS. SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS/TRADE OFFICIALS WERE UNAWARE OF THE MARCH 18 VOTE. COMPLAINING THAT THEY ARE NOT KEPT INFORMED BY THEIR OWN COLLEAGUES, THEY ASKED US FOR THE NAMES OF THE RELEVANT BELGIAN OFFICIALS AT HEALTH AND AG. THEY HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT THEY COULD INFLUENCE THE BELGIAN POSITION, HOWEVER.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: IF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WINS THE DAY, WE CAN EXPECT BELGIUM TO VOTE TO APPROVE THE THREE US

PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE ATTITUDES DISPLAYED AT THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IT IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
BLINKEN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1688

TOR: 980317132016 M3201158

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAEZYUW RUEHTHA1653 0771102-EEEE--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY EEEEE ZZH
LINE3: O 181102Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
OSRI: RUEHTH
DTG: 181102Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7580
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: EU VOTE ON GMO CORN VARIETIES: GREECE MAY
VOTE FOR APPROVAL

TEXT:
UNCLAS E F T O ATHENS 001653

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USTR - J. MURPHY AND D.
SCHOONOVER

DEPT PLEASE PASS USDA/FAS - P. DRAZEK AND FAS/ITP -
SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GR .
SUBJECT: EU VOTE ON GMO CORN VARIETIES: GREECE MAY
VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REF: A) STATE 45312 B) ATHENS 1451 C) 3/17 HADDA-
BOOTH TELCON

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF A, WE HAD PICKED UP
HINTS FROM MEMBERS OF GREECE'S BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
AND THE LOCAL MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE
BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ALL
THREE VARIETIES OF GMO CORN UP FOR APPROVAL AND,
SURPRISINGLY, THAT GREECE WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF
APPROVAL AT TODAY'S ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE BARRING
LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY FROM THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT. THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVE
WHO WILL VOTE TODAY IS A MEMBER OF THE BIOSAFETY
COMMITTEE KNOWN TO BE A PROPONENT OF GMOS.

2. FOLLOWING REFTELCON WE TRIED TO CONTACT THE
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, THEODOROS
KOLIOPANOS, WHO IS THE ULTIMATE GOG DECISION MAKER

ON GMO ISSUES. IN THE PAST, HE HAS REFUSED TO
ENDORSE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE
AND INSTRUCTED THAT GREECE ABSTAIN ON GMO VOTES.
(NOTE: THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS, TOWN PLANNING
AND ENVIRONMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO BE DRAWN
INTO DISCUSSIONS ON GMOS, INSISTING THE BUCK STOP
WITH KOLIOPANOS ON THOSE ISSUES. WE HAD ALSO
PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
THAT PRIME MINISTER SIMITIS IS OPPOSED TO GMOS. END
NOTE) UNABLE TO TALK TO KOLIOPANOS YESTERDAY
EVENING, AND NOT WANTING TO STIR UP UNWANTED
ATTENTION LEAST WE DERAILED A POSITIVE DECISION, WE
SENT A FAX TO KOLIOPANOS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE
OF TODAY'S VOTE TO THE U.S. AND URGING THAT GREECE
ACCEPT THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND VOTE FOR
APPROVAL.
SNELL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1653

TOR: 980318060021 M3202330

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA6179 0771556-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 181556Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

OSRI: RUEHFR

DTG: 181556Z MAR 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4380

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0288
RUCPDO/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
XXXXXX/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6476
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1618
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0308
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2465
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0008
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0001
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0208
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0228

SUBJ: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER COUNSELOR JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR
HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD

SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER COUNSELOR JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS
1.5 (B) AND (D).

REF: PARIS 5488

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. USTR AMBASSADOR PETER SCHER MET WITH FRENCH TRADE
AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN PARIS MARCH 6. HE PRESENTED THE CASE
FOR ADVANCING US-EU TRADE LIBERALIZATION, FOR PROGRESS IN COMPLYING
WITH THE BANANAS AND BEEF HORMONE WTO CASES, AND FOR A BETTER
SYSTEM FOR GMO APPROVALS. THE FRENCH WERE INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR
OPPOSITION TO THE COMMISSION'S TRADE INITIATIVE, WOULD NOT SAY FOR
SURE WHETHER THE EU WOULD COMPLY WITH THE WTO HORMONE DECISION EVEN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2011
2016-0529-m (1191)

IF A RISK ASSESSMENT SHOWED NO RISK, REITERATED FRANCE'S PARAMOUNT INTEREST IN PROTECTING BANANA PRODUCTION AND WORKFORCE IN FRANCE'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, AND OFFERED LITTLE HOPE THAT THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD IMPROVE, CITING NEGATIVE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT. ON THE COMMISSION'S TRADE INITIATIVE, THE FRENCH SAID THAT THEY WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE DOWN THE WHOLE PACKAGE IN THE COUNCIL BY VIRTUE OF THE NEED FOR A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS ON SERVICES. ON THE HORMONE ISSUE, FRENCH RHETORIC HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT IN RECENT WEEKS. TRADE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN TELLING US THAT THIS WAS A BIGGER ISSUE FOR THE NORTHERN EUROPEANS BUT NOW EMPHASIZE HOW BIG A PROBLEM THIS WILL BE FOR FRENCH CONSUMERS. THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS, IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION IN RECENT WEEKS TO THE SAFETY OF NEW FOOD TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BOTH GMO'S AND HORMONES. ON BANANAS THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A SOLUTION BUT APPEAR NOT TO HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS, JUST FEARS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF A NEW SYSTEM ON UNCOMPETITIVE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND THE BANANA WORKFORCE. ON GMO'S THE FRENCH HOPE THAT THEY CAN SWING PUBLIC OPINION TO FAVOR GMO PRODUCTS, BUT BELIEVE THIS WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE. FOOD SAFETY, IN THE WAKE OF THE VARIOUS SAFETY SCANDALS (OF WHICH BSE IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT) CONTINUES TO PREOCCUPY FRENCH BUREAUCRATS AND LIMIT THE GOF'S SCOPE OF ACTION. END COMMENT.

3. (U) ON MARCH 6, USTR SPECIAL TRADE AMBASSADOR PETER SCHER MET WITH FRENCH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS. AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HE SAW AGRICULTURE ADVISOR CLAUDE CHEREAU AND TRADE ADVISOR MARC BOREL. AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY SCHER MET WITH DENIS TERSEN, TRADE ADVISOR TO FINANCE MINISTER STRAUSS-KAHN, PIERRE GRANDJOUAN, ADVISOR TO JUNIOR MINISTER FOR TRADE JACQUES DONDOUX, AND MICHEL PINET, HEAD OF THE AGRICULTURE OFFICE AT THE TRADE DIRECTORATE (DREE). SCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR USTR REPRESENTATIVE AT USEU NANCY ADAMS, D/AUSTR FOR EUROPE RALPH IVES, AND A/ECOUNS PETER SECOR.

NEW TRANSATLANTIC MARKETPLACE (NTM)

4. ~~(C)~~ SCHER PRESSED STRONGLY IN BOTH MEETINGS FOR A MORE FAVORABLE FRENCH REVIEW OF THE NEED FOR A NEW INITIATIVE, ALONG THE LINES OF THE COMMISSION'S NTM IDEA. HE ARGUED THAT WE NEED SOME IMPETUS TO CARRY US INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF WTO TALKS. AN NTM COULD HELP AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL AGENDA BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASIZE OUR COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM AND THE BUILT-IN WTO AGENDA. SCHER NOTED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES TO U.S. AND EU TRADE WOULD MAKE IT HARD NOT TO INCLUDE THE SECTOR IN AN NTM. BUT HE TOLD THE FRENCH THAT THE USG AND THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY DO NOT SEE THE NTM AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING CAP REFORM ISSUES - THOSE ARE FOR THE EU ITSELF AND PERHAPS FOR THE NEXT WTO ROUND. WE COULD, HOWEVER, USE THE NTM TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY ISSUES, WHICH COULD HELP DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE. WE ARE REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT OPPORTUNITIES NTM PRESENTS (AND CONVERSELY DOES NOT).

5. ~~(C)~~ BOREL RESPONDED WITH THE USUAL SET OF GOF TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE UNSURE IT'S LEGALLY CONSISTENT WITH A MULTILATERAL

APPROACH.

-- THE ASIA CRISIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONISM. WHAT SIGNAL WOULD BILATERAL U.S.-EU TALKS SEND? WE DON'T WANT TO STEP BACKWARDS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD

SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:

- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

-- FROM A PRAGMATIC VIEW, AN NTM IS UNLIKELY TO BE THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

-- HOW WILL WE DEFINE WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS?

-- WHY DO WE NEED A NEW STRUCTURE?

6. ~~(S)~~ TERSEN MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS WHICH WE HAVE NOT HEARD BEFORE FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS. HE SAID THAT FRANCE HAS NO APPREHENSION ABOUT THE DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURE OR AUDIOVISUAL IN AN NTM BECAUSE SIR LEON BRITTAN HAS ASSURED THE GOF THAT THEY WILL NOT BE INCLUDED. HE SUGGESTED THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT MULTILATERAL ROUND AND AIMING OUR RESOURCES. AT THIS MOMENT, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO IN CONVINCING TRADING PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD (ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING WORLD) OF THE BENEFITS OF A BROAD ROUND, FRANCE NEEDS TO WORK WITH THE U.S., NOT AGAINST IT, AND TO DEVOTE RESOURCES TO THE MULTILATERAL EFFORT. IF WE WERE TO START AN NTM FRANCE WOULD BE NEGOTIATING WITH THE EU AGAINST THE U.S. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, TERSEN POINTED TO THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT (MRA) TALKS: "LOOK HOW HARD MRA'S WERE AND HOW MUCH TIME THEY TOOK." AND BRITTAN WANTS TO CONCLUDE AN NTM BY THE END OF 1999 - "THIS IS UNREALISTIC".

7. ~~(S)~~ SCHER ASKED ABOUT THE NTM DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE EU COMMISSION. TERSEN COMMENTED THAT, DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF THE TWO FRENCH COMMISSIONERS, A MAJORITY OF THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS HAD AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH BRITTAN'S PROPOSAL ON NTM. HE SAID THAT WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MOST TRADE ISSUES ARE DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE. BUT SERVICES ISSUES REQUIRE UNANIMITY. THEREFORE, THE GOF BELIEVES THAT WHEN AN NTM PACKAGE (NECESSARILY INCLUDING SERVICES) COMES UP FOR APPROVAL IN THE COUNCIL THE GOF WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP IT.

8. ~~(S)~~ ACCORDING TO TERSEN, MOST FOREIGN MINISTRIES IN THE MEMBER STATES FAVOR AN NTM FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WHILE HE CLAIMED THAT FOR PRAGMATIC REASONS MOST TRADE MINISTRIES OPPOSE IT. HE SAID IT WOULD BE HARD TO BUILD DOMESTIC POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR AN NTM. THE GOF IS STILL SUFFERING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ON THE OECD MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT (MAI) TALKS. IF THAT MUCH OPPOSITION COULD BE GENERATED TO WHAT HE TERMED A

"TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WHICH WAS NOT THAT DIFFICULT", IMAGINE WHAT AN UPHILL BATTLE THE GOF WILL HAVE WITH AN NTM.

9. ~~(C)~~ TERSEN ASKED WHEN THE USG WILL MAKE AN INTER-AGENCY DECISION ON NTM. SCHER REPLIED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LIKELY FINALIZE ITS IDEAS WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS. TERSEN ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD NEED THE FORMAL SUPPORT OF CONGRESS. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF AN NTM, BUT THAT FORMAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE REQUIRED. TERSEN THEN ASKED WHETHER AN NTM WOULD NEED AT LEAST POLITICAL, IF NOT LEGAL, CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. SCHER REPLIED THAT POLITICAL SUPPORT WOULD BE NECESSARY, AND WAS A KEY REASON WHY WE WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS SOME AGRICULTURE ISSUES IN AN NTM.

10. ~~(C)~~ SCHER AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO NEGOTIATE THE CAP IN AN NTM BUT RATHER AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY ISSUES. ADAMS NOTED THAT AN NTM COULD BE USED TO DEVELOP CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE REGULATORY ISSUES. TERSEN RESPONDED THAT REGULATORY ISSUES ARE AMONG THE MOST INTRUSIVE AND THEREFORE MOST DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS AND RESOLVE. GRANDJOUAN NOTED WE SHOULD NOT IMPLY FROM FRANCE'S OPPOSITION TO AN NTM THAT IT DOES NOT WANT TO DISCUSS ISSUES OR THAT IT IS TRYING TO UNDERCUT IMPETUS FOR MULTILATERAL TALKS. IT SIMPLY DOES NOT THINK NTM THE RIGHT VEHICLE OR THE RIGHT TIME. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT WE DO NEED A MECHANISM LIKE NTM TO ADDRESS ISSUES - ESPECIALLY CONTINUAL ONES IN AGRICULTURE WHICH ARE ALWAYS PERCEIVED AS A THORN IN THE SIDE OF OUR RELATIONS.

AGRICULTURE ISSUES

11. ~~(C)~~ SCHER OUTLINED FOR CHEREAU AND BOREL (PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) THE USG VIEW THAT THE WORLD FACES GREAT CHALLENGES IN MEETING GROWING DEMAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. WE AND OUR FARMERS MUST ASSUME THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE IN WORLD AGRICULTURE. HE NOTED THE USG'S CONCERN ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THE WTO CASES ON BANANAS AND HORMONES AND THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USD FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FA FOR
HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DCL: 09/03/03

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, F, WTRD

SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MRCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:

- NOMOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES

CHEREAU COMMENTED THAT THE GOF WANTS TO AVOID ISPUITES WITH THE USG BUT CANNOT IGNORE PUBLIC OPINION. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG RECTION ON THESE ISSUES - A REACTION WHICH IS NOT EW. THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO MANAGE THE ISUES AND MAKE PROGRESS, BUT THIS MAY OCCUR SLOWL TO TRY NOT TO LET THE PUBLIC "REACTION" GET OUT OG HAND. AS EVIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC'S INCREASINGLY STRIDENT MOOD HE CITED THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE PARIS AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND A RECENT CASE IN WHICH ACTIVISTS HAD DESTROYED NOVARTIS GMO CORN (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH THE ACTIVISTS HAD BEEN FINED AND SENTENCED TO SHORT JAIL TERMS, CHEREAU SAID HE WORRIED THAT THE ANTI-GMO

ORGANIZATIONS WERE ACCELERATING THEIR ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THAT THIS WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE GOF'S ATTEMPT TO MANAGE A PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE. (COMMENT: THE GOF VIEWS THE "DEBATE," SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20, AS A MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING A MORE FAVORABLE PUBLIC CONSENSUS ON GMO'S. END COMMENT.)

GMO'S

12. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU NOTED THE GOF'S POSITION THAT IT MUST DEVELOP A CONSENSUS PUBLIC OPINION FAVORING GMO'S. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG APPRECIATES THE STEPS FRANCE IS TAKING. GMO'S ARE REALLY AN ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN HELP ADDRESS OUR LONG TERM FOOD PROBLEMS, AND OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS ABOUT FAMINE AND MALNUTRITION. BUT, HE NOTED, WE NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE THAT WE ARE ASSURING SAFE FOOD. HE SUGGESTED THAT BETTER SCIENCE-BASED REVIEWS WOULD HELP EUROPE DEAL WITH PROBLEMS LIKE BSE. CHEREAU DISAGREED, CITING THE EFFECT OF RECENT SCANDALS (BEGINNING WITH THE TAINTED BLOOD SCANDAL IN THE MID-80'S) IN UNDERMINING EUROPEAN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN REGULATORS. THIS IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN THE U.S. AND IN EUROPE. AND THIS IS ONE REASON WHY THE GOF IS NOW PURSUING THE IDEA OF A PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S.

13. ~~(C)~~ SCHER EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE IN THE U.S. WHEN COMPANIES HAVE FOOD/PRODUCT SAFETY PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. THEY REACT QUICKLY AND OPENLY TO TRY TO REASSURE AND REGAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. THE FDA IS NOT SUBJECT TO POLITICAL INTERFERENCE. THAT IS A PROBLEM IN EUROPE. THE COMMISSION AND ITS PROCESSES ARE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND THE CONTINUAL RULE CHANGING CREATES A PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF UNCERTAINTY. CHEREAU AGREED, SAYING THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER BONINO COMMITTEE REVIEW CAME AS A SURPRISE TO FRANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, FRANCE WAS MAKING PROGRESS: WITNESS THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL FOR THE PLANTING OF BT CORN LAST FALL. HE SAID THAT THE GOF AND THE COMMISSION NOW HAVE A WORKABLE MECHANISM TO DEAL WITH CORN BUT FACE DIFFICULTIES WITH GMO CANOLA AND RAPESEED APPROVALS (NOTE: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT GMO CORNS CANNOT SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS TO OTHER PLANTS. GMO RAPESEED CANOLA CAN CROSS-POLLINATE WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER PLANTS, POSSIBLY SPREADING THEIR MODIFIED GENES. END NOTE).

14. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU SAID THAT THE 3 VARIETIES OF GMO CORN RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE BONINO COMMITTEE WILL BE VOTED ON BY THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL MARCH 18. SCHER ASKED IF FRANCE WILL SUPPORT THEM. CHEREAU'S RESPONSE: "I HOPE SO - THE ISSUE IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE GOVERNMENT". SCHER NOTED THAT THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO U.S. INDUSTRY. ADAMS ADDED THAT THE ORIGINAL SCIENCE ON SOME OF THE PRODUCTS UP FOR APPROVAL WAS DONE IN FRANCE. CHEREAU RESPONDED THAT FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THAT FRENCH FARMERS WANT TO USE THEM - ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE BEING USED BY THEIR COMPETITORS. BOREL COMMENTED THAT THE PROBLEM IS POLITICAL, AND INVOLVES BRINGING PUBLIC OPINION ALONG. HE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEP'S) ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY GMO'S.

15. ~~(C)~~ SCHER TOLD CHEREAU AND BOREL THAT OPPONENTS OF LIBERALIZED TRADE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS ARE QUESTIONING WHY THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE OPENING UP TO TRADE AND ABIDING BY WTO FINDINGS AGAINST IT IF OTHERS DO NOT. IF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM IS TO BE

SUSTAINED GOVERNMENTS MUST MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS. POLITICAL LEADERS MUST LEAD. ADAMS SAID THAT THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAD RECENTLY HELD A PRODUCTIVE MEETING ON GMO'S AND THE ENVIRONMENT. CHEREAU COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A BIG CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO. MEP'S HAVE LEARNED FROM THE SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRM) EXPERIENCE OK THE BROAD IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN PRODUCT REGULATION. THE PARLIAMENT IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT MUST BE MORE CAREFUL IN ITS RHETORIC. SCHER CONCLUDED THE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03
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- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BNANAS OR HORMONES.

DISCUSSION OF GMO'S BY RITERATING THAT WE NEED A STABLE, TRANSPARENT AD SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL SYSTEM. WE WILL MEET HE SCIENCE STANDARDS -- BUT THE EU MUST AGREE O A RATIONAL, STABLE PROCESS.

BEEF WITH HRMONES

16. (C) CHEREA FRANKLY PREDICTED THAT FRENCH AND EUROPEAN CONSMERS WILL REJECT MEAT PRODUCED WITH HORMONES. HESAID THAT GOVERNMENTS CANNOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM Y THEMSELVES. CHEREAU SAID THAT FRANCE FACES WO ISSUES: CONSUMER ATTITUDES AND THE SITUATION OF FRENCH BEEF PRODUCERS IN THE POST-BSE ERA. (NOTE: DEMAND FOR BEEF IN FRANCE IS STILL BELOW PRE-BSE LEVELS AND PRODUCERS FACE INTENSE SCRUTINY ON SAFETY ISSUES. MUCH TOUGHER LABELLING REQUIREMENTS ARE ONE RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION.) CHEREAU NOTED THAT IMPORTS OF NON-HORMONE-PRODUCED U.S. BEEF TO FRANCE ARE VERY LOW AND HE ASKED WHETHER THESE IMPORTS COULD BE DEVELOPED AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF AMERICAN BEEF PRODUCERS.

17. (C) SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG RECOGNIZED THAT EUROPE NEEDS TIME TO DEAL WITH CONSUMER CONCERNS. HE SAID THE USG WOULD CONSIDER CHEREAU'S NOTION OF INCREASING EXPORTS OF BEEF PRODUCED WITHOUT HORMONES -- BUT THAT THIS WOULD OFFER ONLY A VERY TEMPORARY FIX. HE SAID WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO DISCUSS INCREASING IN THE SHORT TERM EXPORTS OF U.S. BEEF PRODUCED WITH HORMONES (SUITABLY LABELLED) FOR RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, IN ORDER TO HELP DEVELOP CONSUMER AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE. SCHER EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE WAITED TEN YEARS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE EU MARKET AND THE COMMON FEELING IN THE U.S. IS THAT WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH. IF EUROPE WANTS TO PROCEED WITH A SCIENCE-BASED RISK ANALYSIS, WE CAN LIVE WITH IT. BUT MANY IN WASHINGTON QUESTION WHETHER THE EU WILL EVER HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO LIFT THE BAN AND OPEN MARKETS AFTER A RISK ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION SHOWS NO RISK.

18. (C) SCHER RAISED THE SAME POINT WITH TERSEN. TERSEN SUGGESTED THAT IF COMPLIANCE WITH A WTO DECISION IS TOO DIFFICULT POLITICALLY, THEN WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS -- WHICH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH. HE COMMENTED

THAT THE CURRENT ISSUE OF BEEF PRODUCED WITH HORMONES IS NOT A CLASSIC CASE OF TRADE PROTECTIONISM, BUT RATHER MORE A QUESTION OF CONSUMER PREJUDICES. GRANDJOUAN EXPRESSED THE WORRY THAT THE GOF DOES NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING UP A MORE POWERFUL ANTI-FREE TRADE CONSTITUENCY, SOME OF WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN SMALLER FORM. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE POLITICAL REALITY IN THE U.S. IS SUCH THAT WE CANNOT TELL CONGRESS AND THE INDUSTRY THAT THEY MUST WAIT 15 MONTHS FOR A NEW RISK ASSESSMENT - AT THE END OF WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

19. ~~(C)~~ SCHER EMPHASIZED THAT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE WTO DECISION UNDERMINES SUPPORT FOR THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE IS SOME MIDDLE GROUND WE CAN PURSUE NOW. HE UNDERLINED THE PROBLEM THE USG FACES IF THE EU SAYS IT WILL NOT COMPLY WITH THE WTO DECISION. TERSEN ASKED ABOUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE USG IF THE EU DOES NOT ACT WITHIN THE 15 MONTH TIMEFRAME FOR ANNOUNCING HOW IT WILL COMPLY. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE WTO PANEL WAS VERY CLEAR ON HORMONES: SIMPLY PUNTING AND PUTTING OFF A DECISION - DEALING WITH IT ONLY AFTER A RISK REVIEW - IS INSUFFICIENT, AND MAY MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISION AT THE END OF THE ROAD EVEN HARDER. HE TOLD TERSEN THAT COUNTRIES RETAIN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE WTO DISPUTE PROCESS. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER FOR FRENCH AND EU RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IF THEY WOULD TELL US NOW THAT THEY WILL NOT COMPLY RATHER THAN DRAG THE ISSUE OUT AND STILL NOT COMPLY.

20. ~~(C)~~ PINET SUGGESTED THAT THE GOF COULD DECIDE MORE EASILY WHAT TO DO IF IT KNEW NOW WHAT THE RISK ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE AND IF IT COULD PREDICT THE POLITICAL SITUATION MORE ACCURATELY. BUT IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT THE ASSESSMENT WOULD BE. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE WTO SAYS THAT A DECISION MUST REFLECT A SCIENCE-BASED RISK ASSESSMENT - USING STANDARD VARIABLES. HE AGAIN NOTED THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS PROBLEMS IF THE U.S. HAS THE PERCEPTION THAT IT IS JUST BEING JERKED AROUND. HE UNDERLINED THAT THE USG IS SKEPTICAL OF THE EU'S POSITION. "DON'T EXPECT US TO WAIT 15 MONTHS - THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNSUSTAINABLE. THIS IS A FAIR POSITION FOR US TO HOLD GIVEN THE WTO OBLIGATIONS INVOLVED."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 05 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR
HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD
SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

BANANAS

21. ~~(C)~~ DISCUSSION OF BANANAS AND THE EU'S WTO COMMITMENTS PARALLELED THE REVIEW OF HORMONES. BOREL NOTED THAT FRANCE'S KEY CONCERNS WERE WITH EMPLOYMENT IN THE FRENCH DEPARTMENTS (NOTE: GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE). HE EMPHASIZED A FRENCH NEED FOR CAUTION. CHEREAU REMINDED USTR REPS OF A TWO-YEAR OLD STATEMENT BY THE U.S. MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE CARIBBEAN CONCERNED ABOUT A

SHIFT FROM PRODUCING BANANAS TO DRUGS. HE SAID THAT THE GOF IS DISCUSSING THE BANANA ISSUE WITH THE COMMISSION, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF DECOUPLING SUBSIDY INCOME TO THE FARMERS FROM PRODUCTION. IT IS A MONEY QUESTION FOR THE EU. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG DOES CARE ABOUT CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRUG ISSUE - SINCE THE U.S. WOULD BE THE MOST AFFECTED NATION. BUT WE ARE EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE COMMISSION TO SIT DOWN WITH US AND DISCUSS A SOLUTION. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR WTO COMPLIANCE AND SAID THIS ISSUE RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE WTO CAN SETTLE DISPUTES -ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL ONES. CHEREAU REPLIED THAT FRANCE IS IN FAVOR OF DISCUSSING THE ISSUE COOPERATIVELY (AND QUIETLY) TO LOOK AT OUR OBJECTIVES, EXPLORE COSTS AND EXAMINE DIFFERENT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT USTR WORK VIA THE U.S. EMBASSY TO UNDERTAKE THIS DISCUSSION WITH THE GOF.

22. (S) PINET REITERATED THE EU COMMISSION LINE THAT THE EU WILL RESPECT ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. HE SAID THAT THERE IS AN INTERNAL EU PROCESS TO EXAMINE THE ISSUE AND EXPLAINED THAT THE GOF CANNOT SAY WHAT THE SOLUTION WILL BE UNTIL AFTER THIS INTERNAL EXAMINATION. SCHER TOLD TERSEN AND THE OTHERS THAT THE NEW COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON BANANAS IS MORE PROTECTIONIST THAN THE CURRENT REGIME. WE HAVE DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT THE EU'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE WTO DECISION AND COOPERATE WITH THE COMPLAINING PARTIES. HE CITED THE REFORMULATED GAS WTO DECISION WHICH THE U.S. HAD LOST, AND SAID THAT IN THAT CASE THE U.S. HAD COOPERATED WITH THE COMPLAINING PARTIES AS IT DEVELOPED ITS PLAN OF COMPLIANCE ON A VERY SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE. HE SAID THAT WE ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, GIVEN THE LACK OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON HOW IT PLANS TO COMPLY.

WHEAT GLUTEN

23. (U) CHEREAU ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE WHEAT GLUTEN ISSUE IN THE USG. SCHER REPLIED THAT THE ITC HAS RULED AND MUST NOW SEND ITS FINDINGS REGARDING THE IMPACT ON TRADE. USTR AND USDA WILL HLE TO EVALUATE THE INFORMATION AND THEN MAKE A RECOMMENDQOQO THE PRESIDENT.

24. (U) THIS CABLE WAS CLEARED BY D/AUSTR IVES.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 05

<^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 05

SSN: 6179

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DIST:

SIT: MCELDowney

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 181645Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 181645Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4387
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0293
SUBJ: FRENCH POSITION ON GMO'S
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 006187

USDA FOR O/SEC FOR GLICKMAN AND DRAZEK; U/S FOR
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; FSIS/JPRUCHA
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION ON GMO'S

REF: (A) STATE 46668 (B) STATE 45312

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF F, THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED USG'S POINTS IN A LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN, WITH OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS CONTACTING THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE (DREE) STRONGLY URGING THE GOF VOTE TO APPROVE THE THREE U.S. GENETICALLY-MODIFIED (GMO) CORN VARIETIES AT THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE ON MARCH 18. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SECRETARY DAN GLICKMAN CALLED AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOUIS LE PENSEC ON THE SUBJECT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ADVISED THAT THE FRENCH WILL SEEK A POSTPONEMENT OF THE VOTE. IF A POSTPONEMENT IS NOT GRANTED, THEN THE GOF WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING. WE WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT WHILE THE GOF HAS ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEMS WITH THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THE GMO CORNS, FRANCE IS AWAITING THE EU COMMISSION'S PROPOSED LABELING PROGRAM BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. WE WERE FURTHER TOLD THAT IF OTHER MEMBER STATES MOVED AHEAD TO APPROVE THE GMO CORNS, FRANCE MAKE NO EFFORT TO BLOCK APPROVAL. (NOTE: GOF KNOWS THAT THEIR 10 VOTE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A QUALIFIED MAJORITY).

3. IN ADDITION TO POSITION PROVIDED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT ALSO HAVE INDICATED THAT THE GOF WOULD NOT BE MOVING TO APPROVE THE GMO CORN DOSSIERS UNTIL FRANCE HAS A BIOVIGILANCE NETWORK IN PLACE. THE MINAG PLANS TO HOST A "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS," ON JUNE 20 AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE GOF WILL TAKE NO CONCRETE ACTION UNTIL PUBLIC OPINION AND CONSUMER CONCERNS HAVE BEEN AIRED AT THIS CONFERENCE.
ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6187

TOR: 980318114443 M3202969

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 190634Z MAR 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: EU COMMITTEE APPROVES GMO'S
TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001717

USDA PASS OSEC/SCHUMACHER/DRAZEK; FAS FOR OA/HATAMIYA &
GALVIN; ITP/THORN/CHESLEY; CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: EU COMMITTEE APPROVES GMO'S

1. THE EU COMMISSION'S ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED TO APPROVE ALL THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN, AS WELL AS GENETICALLY-MODIFIED RAPESEED.
2. DETAILS OF THE VOTE ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES WHO HAD BEEN LEANING TOWARDS ABSTENTION WERE PERSUADED TO VOTE IN FAVOR. SOURCES SAY IRELAND, GREECE, DENMARK AND SWEDEN MIXED THEIR VOTES ON DIFFERENT VARIETIES, AND THAT FRANCE ABSTAINED ON ALL THREE CORNS.
3. NORMALLY, FROM AN ARTICLE 21 VOTE TO A FINAL OFFICIAL APPROVAL TAKES TWO TO THREE WEEKS; HOWEVER, WE MUST CAUTION THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN A "NORMAL" CASE.
4. AFFECTED COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DELIGHT WITH THE OUTCOME.
5. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND A VOTE BREAKDOWN WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL. THE OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE WILL BE

FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS SOON AS IT IS OBTAINED.
(DRAFTED:RGIFFORD) WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1717

TOR: 980319014657 M3204226

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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SIT: BUTLER

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
014. cable	Re: [GMO Corn Approval Vote] (3 pages)	03/19/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLOA3061 0791430-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4620
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0164
SUBJ: MAJOR SUPERMARKET INTRODUCES FOOD
PRODUCTS FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 003061

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
USTR/MURPHY; USDA/DRAZEK; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH;
FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/COTS/BLUM;
FAS/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: MAJOR SUPERMARKET INTRODUCES FOOD
PRODUCTS FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS

1. THE UK FROZEN FOOD SUPERMARKET CHAIN ICELAND ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT WILL REMOVE GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS FROM ITS OWN LABEL PRODUCTS STARTING ON MAY 1, 1998. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE MOVE BY ICELAND IS A STRATEGY TO GAIN MARKET SHARE IN THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE RETAIL SECTOR AND TO PRESSURE OTHER RETAILERS TO FOLLOW SUIT. IN ADDITION, THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ICELAND BELIEVES THAT BRITISH CONSUMERS ARE GENERALLY UNAWARE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHOICE IN WHAT THEY EAT. ACCORDING TO TRADE SOURCES, HOWEVER, OTHER RETAILERS DO NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW SUIT BY INITIATING THEIR OWN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FREE FOOD LINES AND THE MOVE BY ICELAND WILL NOT BRING THEM ADDED MARKET SHARE.

2. ICELAND ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMPANY HAS CHANGED ITS PROCUREMENT POLICIES TO ENSURE THAT THERE NONE OF ITS OWN BRAND PRODUCTS CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ICELAND SPENT MORE THAN A YEAR SEARCHING FOR SUPPLIERS OF NON-MODIFIED SOY INGREDIENTS FROM CANADA AND BRAZIL AND HAS

INVESTED OVER BPS 10,000 (US\$16,500) IN GENETIC TESTING PROCEDURES AT SEVERAL STAGES IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN. ICEFND IS ALSO OFFERING LEAFLETS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

3. THE COMPANY HAS STATED THAT PRODUCT PRICES WILL NOT INCREASE BECAUSE OF THE REMOVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS. HOWEVER, TRADE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT ICELAND WILL BE FORCED TO CHARGE HIGHER PRICES. PRICES TEND TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER FOR IDENTITY PRESERVED COMMODITIES BECAUSE OF THE ADDED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HARVEST, STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND PROCESSING. IN ADDITION, ICELAND WILL FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO GUARANTEE 100 PERCENT COMPLIANCE BECAUSE OF THE PROLIFERATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS. FOR EXAMPLE, ICELAND SITES BRAZIL AS A SOURCE OF NON GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOY INGREDIENTS. THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER, EXPORTS A SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF SOYBEANS TO BRAZIL FOR PROCESSING.
BRADTKE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3061

TOR: 980320112958 M3207381

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ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SUBJ: NEXT STEP ON GMO APPROVALS

TEXT:
UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001938

FAS FOR OSEC/SCHMACHER, ITP/THORN/CHESLEY, OA/HATAMIYA
AND GALVIN, OFSTS/SLUTSKY
STATE PASS USTR/MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: NEXT STEP ON GMO APPROVALS

1. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S POSITIVE VOTE BY THE ARTICLE 21 REGULATORY COMMITTEE, THE NEXT STEP IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE THREE GMO CORN VARIETIES IS A VOTE BY THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS.

POST HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS DID NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE ACTION ON THE APPROVALS FOR GMO CORN AT THEIR MARCH 25 MEETING. THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1. IF ACTION IS NOT TAKEN AT THIS MEETING, THE APPROVAL PROCESS MAY RUN AFOUL OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY, CAUSING FURTHER DELAYS.

2. COMMISSION SOURCES SAY IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THAT A COMMISSIONER COULD PUT A HOLD ON THE VOTE, BUT THAT THIS IS UNLIKELY.

3. AFTER COMMISSION APPROVAL, THE DOSSIERS ARE RETURNED TO THE MEMBER-STATE RAPPOREURS WHO ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED THEM, WHO THEN MUST ISSUE A CONSENT FOR THE PRODUCTS TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET. FOR THE NOVARTIS CORN, THE UK IS THE RAPPOREUR, AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE UK ALREADY

IS PREPARING ITS POSITIVE CONSENT.

4. FOR THE MONSANTO AND AGREVO CORNS, HOWEVER, THE RAPPORTEUR IS FRANCE. BOTH INDUSTRY AND COMMISSION SOURCES FEAR THAT FRANCE WILL DELAY ISSUING ITS CONSENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

5. THERE IS PRECEDENCE FOR A RAPOORTEUR FAILING TO ISSUE CONSENT. THE COMMISSION APPROVED TWO VARIETIES OF CANADIAN GMO RAPESEED IN JUNE 1997, YET FRANCE SO FAR HAS FAILED TO ISSUE CONSENT. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE COMMISSION THIS WEEK IS BEGINNING PROCEDURES TO FORCE THE FRENCH TO ISSUE CONSENT.

6. COMMENT: POST BELIEVES HIGH-LEVEL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WASHINGTON MAY BE USEFUL TO ENSURE THAT THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS VOTES NEXT WEEK AND NO LATER. THE FRENCH SITUATION MAY BE MORE COMPLICATED. END COMMENT.
(DRAFTED:RGIFFORD)

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1938

TOR: 980327022434 M3217330

DIST:

SIT: NSC