



# GMO-Free Europe Event 2022

November 17, 10 - 13h, European Parliament, Brussels

We invite you to join us for a GMO-free Europe event at the European Parliament to discuss the European Commission's initiative to change the legislation on the approval, risk assessment and labelling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in food and agriculture. This event is co-organised by *Save Our Seeds* and *IFOAM Organics Europe* and hosted by the *Green Group / EFA* in the European Parliament.

The Commission has announced a [new legislative proposal](#) for the second quarter of 2023, which may exempt certain GMOs obtained from CRISPR-Cas and similar so-called 'New Genomic Techniques' from the present level of risk assessment, traceability and labelling. What would be the consequences of such a deregulation on environmental and consumer protection and on the GMO-free production chain in Europe? What about labelling and the right to know? What about science and precaution?

In its [Berlin Declaration 2018](#), the [9<sup>th</sup> Conference of GMO-free Regions](#) stated: *We want to emphasize that - in line with the ruling by the European Court of Justice - the regulation of all GMOs and methods for genetic engineering are subject to precautionary risk assessment and transparent approval procedures as well as labelling and traceability obligations under GMO legislation.*

The event brings together representatives of GMO-free Regions, scientists, farmers, producers, retailers and consumers as well as NGOs, civil servants, and politicians to scrutinize the proposal and take a stand.

## Preliminary Program

Welcome & Introduction **Martin Häusling**, MEP (Greens/EFA), **Benny Haerlin**, Save Our Seeds, **Silke Malorny**, State of Hesse (GMO Free Regions network)

### Part 1 SCIENCE

*What is the state of the scientific debate about risk assessment, management and traceability of older and newer genetic engineering technologies? What is the context of sustainable technologies for the food and agricultural transformation?*

**Margret Engelhard**, German Federal Agency for Nature Protection, **Eva Gelinsky**, Member of the Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology ECNH, **Christoph Then**, Testbiotech

### Part 2 ECONOMY

*What is the present and what might be the future situation and economic impact of GMO production and regulation on conventional and organic non-GM production, processing, trade, retail and consumption?*

**Heike Moldenhauer**, ENGA, European Non-GMO Industry Association, **Jan Plagge**, president of IFOAM EU and Bioland Germany, **Marcus Wewer**, Rewe Group (tbc) **Fabrizio Fabbri**, European Community of Consumer Cooperatives; **Jörg Rohwedder**, Foodwatch International; **Tia Loftsgard**, Canadian Organic Trade Association.

### Part 3 POLITICS

*What are the political options regarding the EU Commissions proposal to overhaul the present GMO legislation? How to ensure transparency, precaution and socio-ecological transformation?*

**Claire Bury**, EU Commission, Deputy Director General DG Sante, **Benoît Biteau** MEP, **Sarah Wiener** MEP, **Maria Arena** MEP, **Thomas Waitz** MEP, **Rosa d'Amato**, MEP, **Michele Rivasi**, MEP; **Mute Schimpf**, Friends of the Earth Europe; **Aina Bartmann**, Nordic GMO Network; **Pat Thomas**, Beyond GM UK; **Nina Holland**, Corporate Europe Observatory

RECEPTION & Snacks

Please click [here](#) to register until the 14<sup>th</sup> of November

further information: [www.gmo-free-regions.org](http://www.gmo-free-regions.org) and [contact@gmo-free-regions.org](mailto:contact@gmo-free-regions.org)