

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/EEC/150
14 February 2002

(02-0764)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: European Commission.
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable). Products that contain or comprise genetically modified organisms and food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: Member States of the European Communities and third countries exporting the products concerned to the EC.
4. Title and number of pages of the notified document: COM(2001)182 'Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the labelling and traceability of genetically modified organisms and traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC' (8 pages). Available in all Community languages.
5. Description of content: <p>The Proposal notified herewith lays down a general Community system for the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and traceability of food and feed products produced from GMOs at all stages of their placing on the market.</p> <p>The general objectives of the Proposal are to ensure and facilitate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• withdrawal of products should an unforeseen risk be established• targeted monitoring of potential effects on the environment, where appropriate• control and verification of labelling claims• inform the consumers and avoid deceptive practices <p>To achieve these objectives, the Proposal places obligations on operators to transmit and retain specified information at each stage of the placing of the products on the market. Specified information includes details as to whether products contain or are produced from GMOs. For GMOs as or in products to be intentionally introduced into the environment, specification of identity (unique codes) of the GMO(s) that the product contains is also required as a means to facilitate environmental monitoring. For GMOs intended for food, feed or processing, operators are not obliged to specify the identity of the GMOs contained in a product, but may transmit a declaration that the product shall only be used as food or feed, or for processing, together with the identity (unique codes) of the GMOs that the product may contain.</p> <p>Note: This draft legislation has been also notified to the Agreement on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) in notices G/TBT/N/EEC/7 (30 August 2001) and G/TBT/N/EEC/7/Add.1 (31 October 2001).</p>

6.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests. Also, protection of the environment.
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> . If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, give the appropriate reference and briefly identify deviations: This Proposal takes account of the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity as regard specification of the identity of GMOs as well as OECD guidelines.
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: COM(2001)182. Available in all Community languages.
9.	Proposed date of adoption by the European Parliament and the Council: December 2002
10.	Proposed date of entry into force: on the 20 th day following the date of publication of the Regulation in the Official Journal of the European Communities. Proposed date of application for Articles 1 to 7 and 9(1): 90 days following the date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities of the system for development and assignment of unique codes to GMOs.
11.	Final date for comments: 28 February 2002 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EC enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:
12.	Texts available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National notification authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EC enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: The Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the labelling and traceability of genetically modified organisms and traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC is available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/index1.html . and is published in the Official Journal of the EC No. C304E of 30/10/2001, p. 327. English text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/en_501PC0182.pdf French text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/com/pdf/2001/fr_501PC0182.pdf Spanish text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/es/com/pdf/2001/es_501PC0182.pdf