

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/EEC/149

14 February 2002

(02-0763)

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, Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection
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). Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for food or feed use, food and feed containing, consisting of or produced from GMOs. 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)425 final "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed" (40 pages).
5.	Description of content: The proposal notified hereby lays down a centralized Community framework procedure for safety assessment and authorization of genetically modified food and feed (cf. products covered) as well as comprehensive labelling requirements for these products. It repeals existing regulations and amends other regulations and directives. A comprehensive overview of the practical implications of this proposal is provided in Press Notice IP/01/1095 available at http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh Note: This draft legislation has been also notified to the Agreement on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) in notice G/TBT/N/EEC/6 (8 August 2001), G/TBT/N/EEC/7 (30 August 2001) and G/TBT/N/EEC/7/Add.1 (31 October 2001).
6.	Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [X] animal health, [] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests. Also, protection of the environment, consumer protection, prevention of deceptive practices.
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X]. 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 regards importer obligations and notifications. This proposal also takes into account the ongoing work within the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: COM(2001)425 final 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 that of the publication of the Regulation in the Official Journal of the EC / Proposed date of application: 6 months after the date of publication of the Regulation.
11.	Final date for comments: 28 February 2002 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [] National notification authority, [X] EC enquiry point, or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:
12.	Texts available from: [] National notification authority, [X] EC enquiry point or address, fax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: Information on Food policy available in http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/index_en.html The Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed COM(2001)425 final is available at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/index1.html and is published in the Official Journal of the EC N° C304 E of 30.10.2001, p. 221. English text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/en_501PC0425.pdf Spanish text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/es/com/pdf/2001/es_501PC0425.pdf French text: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/com/pdf/2001/fr_501PC0425.pdf