



Brussels, 25.6.2007
COM(2007) 346 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the placing on the market of food and feed produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1 (KM-000H71-4) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

(Only the French, Dutch and German texts are authentic)

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The attached proposal for a Council Decision concerns food and feed produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1, for which a request for placing on the market was submitted by KWS SAAT AG and Monsanto Europe S.A. to the competent authorities of The United Kingdom on 12 November 2004, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed.

On 20 December 2006, the European Food Safety Authority gave a favourable opinion in accordance with Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and concluded that it is unlikely that the placing on the market of the products produced from sugar beet H7-1 as described in the application will have any adverse effects on human or animal health or the environment in the context of their intended uses. In giving its opinion, the Authority considered all specific questions and concerns raised by the Member States.

Against this background, a draft Commission Decision authorising the placing on the Community market of food and feed produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1 was submitted to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, on 19 April 2007, for vote. The Committee delivered no opinion: sixteen Member States (195 votes) voted in favour, nine Member States (92 votes) voted against and two Member States (58 votes) abstained.

Consequently, pursuant to Article 35, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and in accordance with Article 5 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC modified by Council Decision 2006/512/EC, the Commission is required to submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken, the Council having three months in which to act by a qualified majority, and inform the Parliament.

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(Only the French, Dutch and German texts are authentic)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed¹, and in particular Articles 7(3) and 19(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 November 2004, KWS SAAT AG and Monsanto Europe S.A. submitted to the competent authorities of the United Kingdom an application, in accordance with Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, for the placing on the market of foods, food ingredients, and feed produced from sugar beet H7-1 ('the application').
- (2) The initial scope of the application also included beet leaves and small pieces of roots resulting from the root processing that may be fermented to produce silage for animal feed. These products, which are not considered as produced from GMOs but as containing or consisting of GMOs, were removed from the scope of the application by the applicants on 14 February 2006.
- (3) On 20 December 2006, the European Food Safety Authority ('EFSA') gave a favourable opinion in accordance with Articles 6 and 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and concluded that it is unlikely that the placing on the market of the products produced from sugar beet H7-1, as described in the application ('the products') will have any adverse effects on human or animal health or the environment in the context of their intended uses². In its opinion, EFSA considered all specific questions and concerns raised by the Member States.

¹ OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p 1. Regulation as amended by Commission Regulation (OJ L 368, 23.12.2006, p. 99).

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/gmo/gm_ff_applications/more_info/741.html

- (4) Taking into account those considerations, authorisation should be granted for the products.
- (5) A unique identifier should be assigned to each GMO as provided for in Commission Regulation (EC) No 65/2004 of 14 January 2004 establishing a system for the development and assignment of unique identifiers for genetically modified organisms³.
- (6) On the basis of the EFSA opinion, no specific labelling requirements, other than those provided for in Articles 13(1) and 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, appear to be necessary.
- (7) Similarly, the EFSA opinion does not justify the imposition of specific conditions or restrictions for the placing on the market and/or specific conditions or restrictions for the use and handling, including post-market monitoring requirements, as provided for in point (e) of Articles 6(5) and 18(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.
- (8) All relevant information on the authorisation of the products should be entered in the Community register of genetically modified food and feed, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.
- (9) In accordance with Articles 4(2) and 16(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, the conditions for authorisation of the products are binding all persons placing them on the market.
- (10) No opinion was delivered by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1
Genetically modified organism and unique identifier

Genetically modified sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*) H7-1, as specified in point (b) of the Annex to this Decision, is assigned the unique identifier KM-ØØØH71-4, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 65/2004.

Article 2
Authorisation

The following products are authorised for the purposes of Articles 4(2) and 16(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, in accordance with the conditions set out in this Decision:

- (a) foods and food ingredients produced from KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet;
- (b) feed produced from KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet.

³ OJ L 10, 16.1.2004, p. 5.

*Article 3
Labelling*

For the purposes of the specific labelling requirements laid down in Articles 13(1) and 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, the 'name of the organism' shall be 'sugar beet'.

*Article 4
Community register*

The information set out in the Annex to this Decision shall be entered in the Community register of genetically modified food and feed, as provided for in Article 28 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

*Article 5
Authorisation holders*

1. The authorisation holders shall be:
 - (a) KWS SAAT AG, Germany;and
 - (b) Monsanto Europe S.A., Belgium, representing Monsanto Company, United States of America.
2. Both authorisation holders shall be responsible for fulfilling the duties imposed on authorisation holders by this Decision and Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

*Article 6
Validity*

This Decision shall apply for a period of 10 years from the date of its notification.

Article 7
Addressees

This Decision is addressed to:

(a) KWS SAAT AG, Grimsehlstrasse 31– D 37574 Einbeck – Germany;

and

(b) Monsanto Europe S.A., Scheldelaan 460, Haven 627 – B 2040 Antwerp Belgium.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

ANNEX

(a) Applicants and Authorisation holders:

Name: KWS SAAT AG.

Address: Grimsehlstrasse 31– D 37574 Einbeck – Germany

and

Name: Monsanto Europe S.A.

Address: Scheldelaan 460, Haven 627 – B 2040 Antwerp – Belgium

On behalf of Monsanto Company - 800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard – St. Louis, Missouri 63167 - United States of America.

(b) Designation and specification of the products:

(1) Foods and food ingredients produced from KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet;

(2) Feed produced from KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet.

The genetically modified KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet, as described in the application, expresses the CP4 EPSPS protein after insertion of the *cp4 epsps* gene from *Agrobacterium* sp. strain CP4 into sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*).

The CP4 EPSPS protein confers tolerance to glyphosate containing herbicides.

(c) Labelling:

For the purposes of the specific labelling requirements laid down in Articles 13(1) and 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, the 'name of the organism' shall be 'sugar beet'.

(d) Method for detection:

- Event specific real-time PCR based method for the quantification of KM-ØØØH71-4 sugar beet.
- Validated on seeds by the Community reference laboratory established under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, published at <http://gmo-crl.jrc.it/statusofdoss.htm>
- Reference Material: ERM®-BF419 accessible via the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the Institute of Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) at http://www.irmm.jrc.be/html/reference_materials_catalogue/index.htm.

(e) Unique identifier:

KM-ØØØH71-4

(f) Information required under Annex II to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Not applicable.

(g) Conditions or restrictions on the placing on the market, use or handling of the products:

Not required.

(h) Monitoring plan

Not applicable.

(i) Post market monitoring requirements for the use of the food for human consumption

Not required.

Note: links to relevant documents may need to be modified over the time. Those modifications will be made available to the public via the updating of the Community register of genetically modified food and feed.