

EU-US trade deal:

What is at stake for GMOfree movement and markets in the European Union?

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General Concerns that will impact environmental, food and consumers policies

- **Lack of transparency**
 - Secrecy of the negotiations raises question who will benefit this agreement?
- **Aiming at “Regulatory coherence” ?**
 - Differing regulations and protection standards currently defined as **trade “barriers”** to be addressed through **“mutual recognition”** and **“equivalence”**
- **Democracy bypassed**
 - The spectrum of specific rights for corporations to challenge democratically agreed decisions in secret unaccountable courts (ISDS)
 - Risk of a backward movement on environmental issues



1. EU situation about GMOs

Very limited role of GM food + seeds in the EU

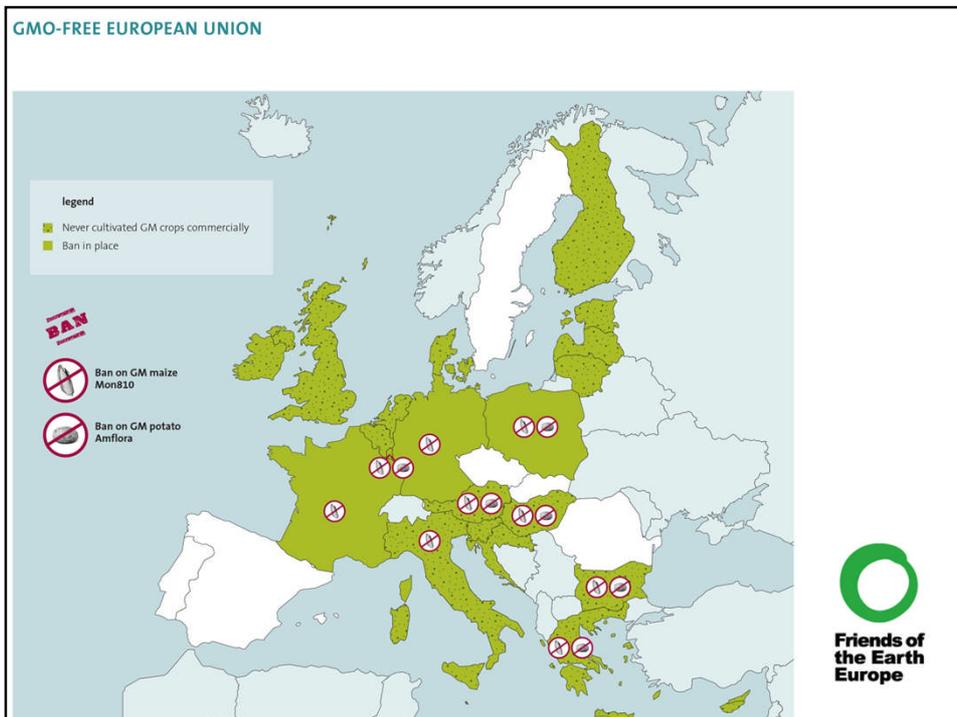
- **Hardly any food contains GM raw materials;**
- **GM food and feed must be labelled since 2004;**
- **0.1% of EU fields are grown with GM crops;**
- **9 EU countries have banned the cultivation of GM crops in their territories;**
- **GMO crops without an authorisation must not be marketed (even not in minor traces)**



2. What are the reasons for this situation?

- **Combination of strong GMOfree movement and clear consumer rejection of GM crops**
- **GM laws that are based on the precautionary principle and gives consumers a right to choose**
- **Group of politicians defend the citizens rejection of GM crops**
- **Lack of convincing GM products for European farmers**





3. What is at risk for EU GMO policies?

- EU officials state: GMO rules wont be changed
- US diplomats identifying better market for GM crops as important aim for TTIP

US continues to press the EU for fundamental improvements in its regulatory system with the goal of normalizing trade in agricultural products derived from modern biotechnology. (USTR SPS 2014)

- Agribusiness attacks EU GMO rules and market rejections
- What is at risk for EU citizens:

Any trade agreement can not change main EU GM laws. But the tricky part is how these laws are implemented

- = authorisation of GM crops,
- = definition of any thresholds;
- And upcoming changes in GMO laws



GMO labelling

- **EU GMO labelling rules entered into force in 2004,**
 - are based on consumer choice
- **US diplomats demanding that any labelling that is not based on a scientific risk should be abandoned**
- **US agribusiness is attacking the EU labelling rules**
- **What is at risk:**
 - The current rules cannot be changed via TTIP, but:
 - Any changes, for examples closing the labelling gap for animal products
 - EU Commission works on new framework for voluntary labelling rules for animal products
 - TTIP could affect any EU labelling thresholds



Only GM crops that are authorised can be marketed in the EU

- **EU GMO laws**
 - requires that only authorised GM crops can be marketed – so called zero tolerance. (some exemptions for feed)
- **Agribusiness (EU and US):**
 - lobby for a so called low level presence that conventional food, feed, seeds can be contaminated without any transparency and traceability
- **US diplomats**
 - identify EU's zero tolerance as a trade barrier
- **What is at risk:**
 - Strong concerns that TTIP would lead to these changes
 - EU consumers and farmers can be faced with GM contamination in seed and food – without getting any information about it!



GMO authorisation in EU

- **EU GMO laws are aiming for environment, health protection and defend consumer interests**
- **US diplomats identify EU authorisation rules as trade barriers:**

European Union (EU) measures governing the importation and use of GE products have resulted in substantial barriers to trade. ...These include: ... registration requirements for GE commodities. (US SPS report 2014)

- **What is at risk:**
 - Any stricter standards for safety checks could be attacked as further trade barrier
 - Regulatory coherence could weaken EU GMO standards
 - More GM crops checked under laxer rules could enter the EU



Friends of the Earth Europe's key demands

- **No compromise on democracy, safety, and key pillars of EU regulations – such as the polluter-pays and the precautionary principles – through these negotiations**

Negotiations should exclude:

- **Any form of investor-to-State dispute settlement mechanism**
- **Any areas dealing with food safety, animal or plant health**
 - To defend democratically agreed safeguards for high consumers standards and block attempts to further weaken rules about genetically modified organisms and bridge to existing movements for local food



Useful background information

FoEE position paper on EU US trade talks

http://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/foee_briefing_ttip_oct13.pdf

FoEE and IATP briefing about impacts on food and farming sector in TTIP

http://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/foee_iatp_factsheet_ttip_food_oct13.pdf

FoEE briefing about investor schemes and energy in TTIP

http://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/foee_factsheet_isds_oct13.pdf

« No fracking way »: how TTIP risks expanding fracking

<http://www.foeeurope.org/no-fracking-way-report-060314>

