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Title: Advice of the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council complementing its advice of 7 December 2012 on the application EFSA/GMO/NL/2010/78 from Monsanto under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003

Context

The application EFSA/GMO/NL/2010/78 was submitted by Monsanto on 18 February 2010 for the marketing of genetically modified (GM) soybean MON 87705 for food and feed uses, import and processing within the framework of Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003¹. Soybean MON 87705 contains a FAD2-1A/ FATB1A suppression cassette resulting in an altered fatty-acid profile of the soybean seed and expresses the CP4 EPSPS conferring tolerance to glyphosate-based herbicides.

The opinion of the EFSA Scientific Panel on GMOs was adopted on 28 September 2012 (EFSA Journal 2012; 10(10):2909²) and on 7 December 2012 the Biosafety Advisory Council finalised its advice for the Belgian competent authority³. In its advice the Council concluded that soybean MON 87705 is unlikely to pose any risk to human and animal health and agreed with EFSA that an additional nutritional assessment should be performed in case the intended use of MON 87705 soybean would include commercial frying.

On 7 January 2013 the European Commission asked the EFSA GMO Panel to complement its opinion on soybean MON 87705 oil to include an assessment of the safety of the oil for commercial frying. EFSA requested the applicant to provide an exposure assessment on EU consumers for the oil extracted from soybean MON 87705 when used for commercial frying and to include scenarios for mean and high consumers. EFSA received the requested data on 22 May 2013 and the EFSA Scientific Panel on GMOs adopted on 4 December 2013 a statement complementing its opinion of December 2012 (EFSA Journal 2013; 11(12):3507⁴).

On 23 May, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents, EFSA granted the Biosafety Advisory Council electronic access to the additional data provided by the applicant. These additional data consisted of a statement and an adapted exposure assessment that now included the possible use of MON 87705 in commercial frying. Soybean oil, and also MON 87705 soybean oil, has a polyunsaturated fatty acid profile that is not optimal for frying because it has a greater tendency to develop unpleasant flavors and odors after repeated heating.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p.1).

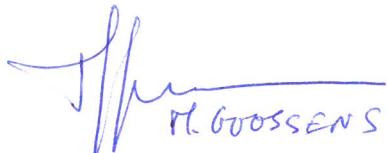
² See <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2560.htm>

³ See http://www.bio-council.be/bac_advises.html

⁴ See <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/3507.htm>

Conclusion

Having reviewed the additional data and taking into account the opinion of EFSA, the Biosafety Advisory Council reiterates its advice of 7 December 2012 and agrees with EFSA that the use of soybean MON 80775 oil, even in (commercial) frying, is very unlikely to have a negative impact on human health and nutrition.



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. De Proft'.

Prof. M. De Proft
President of the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council