

## **Request from the European Commission to review scientific studies related to the impact on the environment of the cultivation of maize Bt11 and 1507**

### **Scientific opinion of the Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms**

**(Question No EFSA-Q-2008-679)**

**Adopted on 29 October 2008**

#### **SUMMARY**

On 19 January 2005 and 20 April 2005, the Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO Panel) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued scientific opinions on genetically modified maize Bt11 and 1507, both including the scope of cultivation.

At a meeting of the European Commission with national competent authorities on 19 June 2006, some Member States raised objections to the original opinions of the GMO Panel. Most of these objections related to potential effects of maize Bt11 and 1507 on non-target organisms and in particular lepidopteran species and to post-market environmental monitoring. Following the meeting with competent authorities and upon request of the European Commission, the GMO Panel amended its previous scientific opinions on 7 November 2006 by adopting an Annex of clarifications. In the Annex, the GMO Panel concluded that the information available for maize Bt11 and 1507 addresses objections and questions raised by Member States, and confirmed that maize Bt11 and 1507 are unlikely to have adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment in the context of their proposed uses.

On 24 July 2008, the GMO Panel received a new request from the European Commission to review the previous scientific opinions of maize Bt11 and 1507 in the light of 11 scientific publications, published after the adoption of the complemented scientific opinions of the GMO Panel, as well as any other relevant study.

The GMO Panel concludes that neither the 11 scientific publications selected and provided by the European Commission, nor recent peer-reviewed papers identified as relevant by the GMO Panel, invalidate the former risk assessments of maize Bt11 and 1507 performed by the GMO Panel.

**Key words:** **GMOs, maize (*Zea mays*), Bt11, 1507, insect resistance, Cry1Ab, Cry1F, human health, animal health, environment, Directive 2001/18/EC**