



MINISTRY
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Hungarian views on GM-free labelling

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- ❖ background to the existing regulatory frameworks
- ❖ regulatory level
- ❖ stakeholders' level
- ❖ problems with GM pollen in honey
- ❖ conclusion

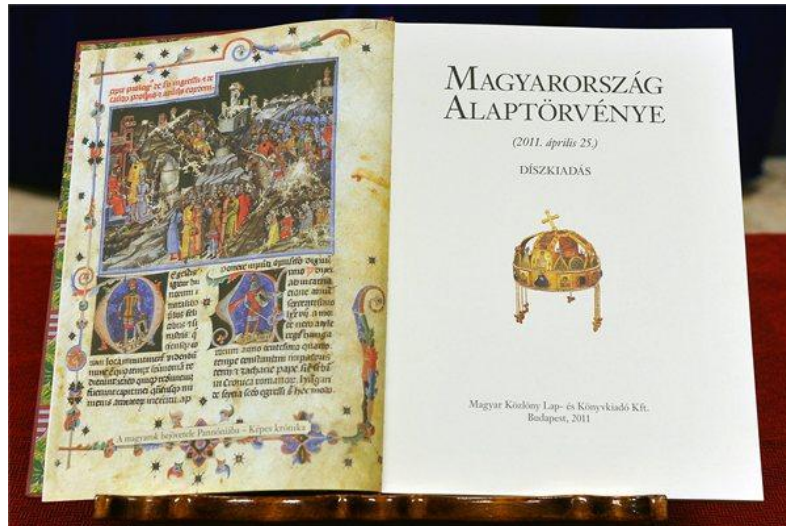
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According to a study by Umweltbundesamt GmbH
Dr. Helmut Gaugitsch and Dr. Andreas Heissenberger

Existing regulatory frameworks:

- **Austrian Guideline** on the definition of GM-free production of food and its labelling, Austrian Foodbook 2007
- **German Law** on the implementation of the regulations of the EU in the area of gene technology and on the labelling of food produced without methods of genetic modification (EGGenTDurchfG)
- **French Decree** 2012-128 on the labelling of foodstuffs from production described as „free from geentically modified organisms”
- **Draft Amendment** to existing legislation (**Provincial Law**, 22/01/2001 on labelling of GM-free products, notified to the EC)

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2006 Parliamentary Decision
„Hungary’s GMO-free status”



Fundamental Law of Hungary
(1st January 2012)

Hungarian strategy on GMOs

„**Article XX**

- (1) Every person shall have the right to physical and mental health.
- (2) Hungary shall promote the exercise of the right set out in Paragraph (1) by ensuring that its agriculture remains free from any genetically modified **organism**, by providing access to healthy food and drinking water, by managing industrial safety and healthcare, by supporting sports and regular physical exercise, and by ensuring environmental protection.”



TOGETHER FOR A GMO-FREE AGRICULTURE!

GMO Roadshow 2012 (also planned in 2013), Hungary

- organised by the Ministry of Rural Development
- in eight major cities around the country
- in November - December, 2012
- goals:
 - raise public awareness of this highly important issue
 - feed-back from consumers and farmers

What are we doing now?

1. Currently reviewing the existing legislations
2. Assessing the impacts of these legislations
 - on consumers
 - on producers
 - on retailers
3. Overcome avoidable mistakes
4. Consultation with producers/retailers/farmers
5. Drafting a legislation on GM-free labelling

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Danube Soya Initiative (Austria) – Danube Soy Declaration

Agreement: signed by Hungary during the International Green Week agricultural trade fair in Berlin, 19 January, 2013

other signatories: Bavaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina



Goals:

- a comprehensive new protein policy for agricultural food and feed production
- a reduction of import dependency
- a targeted development of GM-free food products

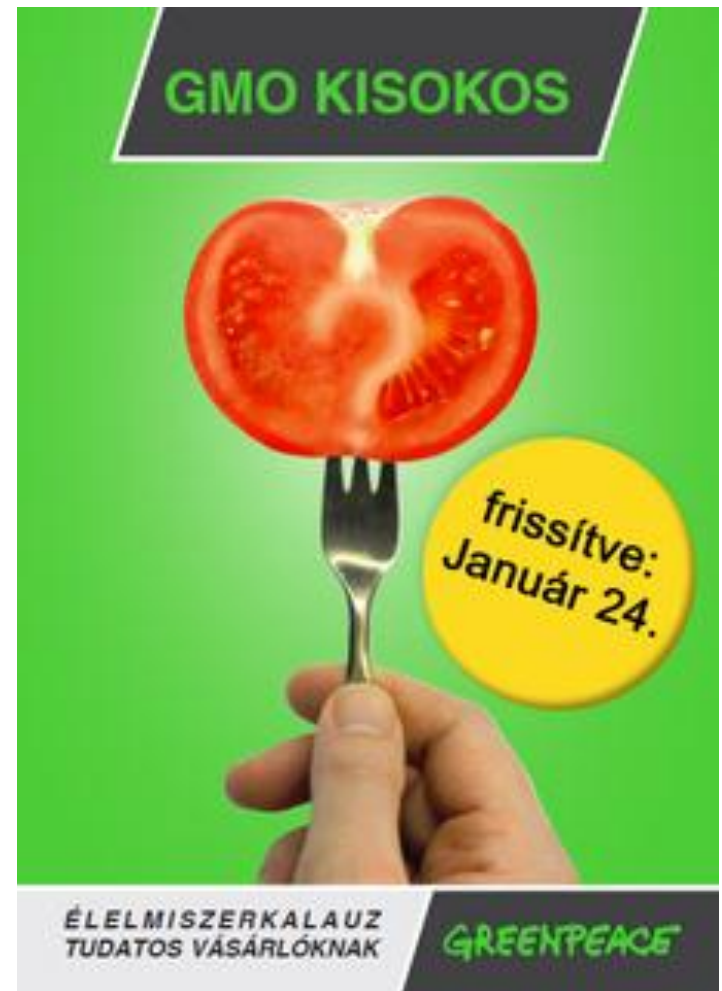
GMO Kisokos (GMO True Food Guide) (Shoppers guide for conscious consumers)

First published: 25th November, 2012
162 most important food producers and
distributors were surveyed

2/3 guarantees GM-free products

Latest update: 24th January, 2013
an additional 8 producers/distributors
guarantee GM-free products

Online viewers: 1 352 634
Copies printed: 25.000



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Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
amending Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey

Background: Bablok-case (C-442/09) – ECJ' Judgement

definition of the pollen in honey

natural constituent vs ingredient

Consequence:



labelling requirement for GMO content of honey



- pollen, as a natural constituent (Commission proposal)

Labelling of GMO content / honey

Problem: the maximum pollen content (0.5 %) will always be below the 0.9% threshold

In practice: the presence of authorised GM pollen in honey, regardless of the ratio, will **never require labelling**

- pollen, as an ingredient

Labelling of GMO pollen content / pollen

Problem: difficulties of quantification, although a method exists



Waiblinger et al. (2012): In-house and interlaboratory validation of a method for the extraction of DNA from pollen in honey. J. Verbr. Lebensm. DOI 10.1007/s00003-012-0774-z

In practice: **may require labelling**

- pollen is a natural constituent, as far as the Honey Directive is concerned,
or an ingredient, as far as the GMO Regulation should be concerned

Labelling of GMO pollen content / pollen

In practice: **may require labelling**

this solution does not affect other parts of the Honey Directive (2001/110),
neither Regulation 1829/2003 would be altered in any way

points 77-79 of the ECJ' Judgement:

„77. Pollen is therefore not a foreign substance or impurity in honey, but rather a normal component ...

79. It must therefore **also be classified** as an ‘ingredient’ ...”



this solution ensures freedom of information and choice for consumers

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Step by step approach

1. **step:** labelling GMO content - according to Regulation 1829/2003/EC

making it workable - consumers's choice and interest

creating transparency and traceability in production in a credible and controlled way

2. **step:** GM-free labelling

solution for products not under the scope of Regulation 1829/2003/EC

clear labelling for GMO free plant-based and animals fed on GMO-free feeds



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Hope you will help us to achieve our aims!