

TONIO BORG

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels
ARES (2014)

13 02 2014

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Dear Ministers,

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday evening in which you reiterate your positions expressed in the General Affairs Council.

The authorization request for the GM Maize PIONEER 1507 has been pending for thirteen years, has received six positive opinions from the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), and the European Court has ordered the Commission to act on this file.

Council had the right, if it wanted to do so, to reject this request. It did not. On the contrary, it allowed the three months deadline to elapse. According to the procedural rules agreed to by Council and the European Parliament, in such cases "the Commission shall adopt the proposal".

In these circumstances, and because of the sensitivity of this file, I urge you to accept and to approve the so called "cultivation proposal" which will allow Member States, on specific grounds, to prohibit authorization of GMOs on their territory. The European Parliament had already adopted its favourable opinion in July 2011. A clear predominant majority of Member States are in favour of adopting such proposal, with only few Member States forming a blocking minority.

In view of your opposition to the authorization of this Maize which has received positive EFSA opinions and has already been approved for food and feed purposes in the past, I trust you will give your agreement to the Commission's proposal to allow Member States to ban cultivation of GMOs on their territory.

I am confident that this will happen in the next Environment Council at the beginning of March.

With best regards,

Sebastian Kurz

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Austria

Kristian VIGENIN

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

Ioannis KASOULIDES,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus

Thierry REPENTIN
Minister for European Affairs, France

Enikő GYŐRI
Minister of State for European Affairs, Hungary

Enzo Moavero MILANESI
Minister for European Affairs, Italy

Edgars RINKEVICS
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Vytautas Leškevičius,
Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Jean ASSELBORN
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg

Piotr SERAFIN
Minister for European Affairs, Poland

Igor SENCAR,
State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

Louis GRECH,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for European Affairs, Malta