

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON GMOs

7. INVITES the Member States to collect and exchange relevant information on socio-economic implications of the placing on the market of GMO's including socio-economic benefits and risks and agronomic sustainability, by **January 2010**. INVITES the Commission to submit to the European Parliament and to the Council the report based information provided by the Member States by June 2010 for due consideration and further discussions.

13. REAFFIRMS the need at European level for one or more labelling thresholds for the adventitious presence of authorised GMOs in conventional seeds on the basis of relevant criteria, such as species-specific criteria and scientific information; UNDERLINES that these thresholds must be set at the lowest ~~possible levels that are~~ practicable, proportionate and functional **levels** for all economic operators, must contribute to ensuring freedom of choice to producers and consumers of conventional, organic and GM products alike;

18. NOTES that GMO-free zones can be created on the basis of voluntary agreement which, **in line with relevant national law**, could be tacit between the economic operators concerned in the area in question and that in order to ensure freedom of choice all concerned operators must be properly informed about an intention to create the GMO-free zone.

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Point 16 to be completed as follows:

"Points out that in accordance with Community law, which includes the precautionary principle, regions with ^{particular} specific agronomical and environmental characteristics, including small isolated islands, may require differentiated case-specific management or restrictions measures, including prohibition measures for GMO cultivation."