International Workshop

on the consequences of the ECJ judgement on GM pollen in honey for GM crop releases and cultivation in Germany and the EU

Berlin, December 13-14, 2011

Session 2: Scientific and Economic Issues
Current State of Honey Analyses in Germany

International workshop on the consequences of the ECJ judgement on GM pollen in honey for GM crop releases and cultivation in Germany and the EU

Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)

National management authority for health-related and economic consumer protection

- Food and feed safety
- Plant protection products
- Veterinary drugs
- Genetic engineering
- Reference laboratories (e.g. national GMO reference laboratory)
- Economic consumer protection
The Department „Genetic Engineering“ of the BVL

Department 4 „Genetic Engineering“

Unit 401 „General Affairs of Genetic Engineering“

Unit 402 „Recommendations on Safety and Central Advisory Committee for Biological Safety (ZKBS)“

Unit 403 „Deliberate Release and Placing on the Market“

Unit 404 „Coexistence, GMO Monitoring“

Unit 405 „Traceability, Methods of Detection, Biosafety Clearing House“
Responsibilities for inspections of food in Germany

The Federal States are responsible for inspection and control of food and feed produced in Germany or imported to Germany

- concerning the labelling requirements of GMOs
- concerning the presence of unauthorised GMOs

For the food/feed sector according Regulation EC No. 882/2004 a multi-annual national plan for official inspections and controls is prepared

- 1 master plan (BVL) and 16 regional plans (Federal States)
- Inspection and control of food/feed sector at import points, production plants, wholesalers, retailers etc.
Responsibilities for inspections of food in Germany

16 federal states

- BVL
- Ministry of consumer protection
- EU Commission
- member states

EU Commission

member states
Official honey analyses prior to the ruling of the ECJ

samples in total

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 (up to Sept. 6th)

100% 66% 0% 10% 21% 7%

GMO positive

- Pollen from GM rapeseed: GT73, MS8, RF3, RF1 or not specified
- main country of origin: Canada

issued by 7 Federal States
Official honey analyses prior to the ruling of the ECJ

- Retailer: 62%
- Producer (beekeeper): 27%
- Processor: 2%
- Wholesaler: 1%
- Catering, bakery: 1%
- Direct marketer: 6.5%
- Not specified: 0.5%
Decision of the ECJ on 6th of September 2011

Contact with Federal States in several working groups
Guideline for sampling and analysis for detection of pollen from GM plants in honey
BVL list of in the EU authorized GM plants which authorisation includes pollen

Coordination between Federation and Federal states:
- Inspections at bottlenecks
- Transmission of analyses results to the BVL

number of actors

← producer, direct marketer
← processor, wholesaler
← retailer, catering, bakery

www.bvl.bund.de
Official honey analyses after the ruling of the ECJ

277 honey samples

19 GMO positive (7%)
- Pollen from RR soybean GTS 40-3-2
  - Central and South America

5 non authorised in EU (2%)
- Pollen from oilseed rape GT73, MS8, RF3
  - Canada, Chile, unknown

state of November 2011
issued by 13 Federal States
Countries of origin of analyzed honey

- Germany: 29%
- Asia: 4%
- Mexico: 12%
- Argentinia: 4%
- Remaining America: 14%
- Canada: 1%
- Not specified: 23%
- Remaining Europe: 12%
- Australia, New Zealand: 2%
Honey imports in 2010 to Germany

~ 90,000 t honey import to Germany p.a.
~ 25,000 t honey produced in Germany p.a.

~ 50% of honey origins from Middle and South America
Official controls versus honey on the German market

Countries of origin of analyzed honey

- Australia, New Zealand: 2%
- not specified: 23%
- Canada: 1%
- Mexico: 12%
- Argentina: 4%
- remaining America: 14%
- Asia: 4%
- remaining Europe: 12%

Countries of origin of all honey in Germany

- Germany: 29%
- Asia: 5.5%
- remaining America: 20%
- remaining Europe: 19%
- others: 2%
- Canada: 0.5%
- Mexico: 11%
- Argentina: 4%
- Australia, New Zealand: 1%
- not specified: 23%
Locations of honey sampling

- Retailer: 40%
- Wholesaler: 19%
- Processor: 19%
- Producer (beekeeper): 12%
- Catering and bakery: 5%
- Direct marketer: 1%
- Not specified: 4%
Locations of honey sampling

before September 2011

- retailer: 62%
- wholesaler: 1%
- processor: 2%
- producer (beekeeper): 27%
- catering, bakery: 1%
- not specified: 0.5%
- direct marketer: 6.5%

after September 2011

- retailer: 40%
- wholesaler: 19%
- processor: 19%
- producer (beekeeper): 12%
- catering, bakery: 5%
- not specified: 4%
- direct marketer: 1%
Thank you for your attention!