

## Germany's "GM-free" positive claims law now in force

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Brdo/Berlin (dpa) – The last hurdles for voluntary labeling "ohne Gentechnik" [= no genetic engineering] of foodstuffs have now been removed.

This was announced by [Germany's] Federal Minister of Agriculture Horst Seehofer on Tuesday at a meeting with his EU colleagues in Brdo, Slovenia.

Polish concerns against the regulation have been cleared, [he said]. The Federal Government did not want to let the legislation go into force after after the EU partners had been heard. According to the new regulation, manufacturers can now add to the packaging of milk, meat and eggs the words "no genetic engineering" – even if the feedstuff may contain genetically modified additives.

Until now, the application of biotechnology in food products had to be excluded completely so that there were hardly any products labeled this way. The "no genetic engineering" regulation is part of the new biotech legislation which President Horst Kohler had approved in the beginning of April.

All EU Member States had to be asked about the new "no genetic engineering" claims regulation. The food industry fears negative consequences for the market of genetically modified products and considers the regulation deceiving.