



**Agent Green Press Release / GMO**  
**Bucharest – 23.09.2009**

## **The Romanian Government holds locations of GMO cultivation secretly** ***Agent Green takes legal proceedings against the Government***

**Agent Green has submitted two legal proceedings at the Bucharest Court of Appeal against Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agency for Environmental Protection (ANPM) because the institutions refuse to publish the locations where cultivation of GM (genetically modified) maize MON810 takes place [1].** The organization has requested the court to oblige the institutions to publish the national register with locations cultivated with GMOs, to cover the trial costs and to fine the responsible persons with 20% of the gross salary for each day of delay on executing the court decision. *„The authorities refuse to publish the national register of GMOs for three years now. In the beginning they have thrown this responsibility from one to another. They were playing a sort of table-tennis with our patience. We have insisted and this year they even decided to admit that the registers containing locations of GMOs for 2007-2009 are confidential information. This situation is unacceptable and we took the decision to use our right to access the justice on environmental issues and to reveal the locations where GMOs are being planted for the farmers and the consumers to be able to protect themselves”,* said Gabriel Paun, President of Agent Green.

There are similar precedents in the EU. For example Mr Pierre Azelvandre from France reached the Council of the State (french highest court) to reveal GMO locations. The solution came from the European Court of Justice and the locations have been made public [2]. In the meanwhile cultivation of MON810 has been banned in France. So in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Luxembourg and Greece. The secrecy of GMO locations violates the public right to access environmental information guaranteed by the Aarhus Convention (signed and ratified by Romania). The explicit refusal of the agriculture ministry place all the other farmers and the consumers in the impossibility to protect themselves from GMOs. For environmental NGOs is now impossible to prove if a GMO field is legal or not as long as the register is not available. *„We regret that we came to court with governmental institutions. These information were public during other ministers mandate and we could help the authorities to identify illegal GMO fields that were not included in the registers. Today we observe a disgracefully attitude of the agriculture ministry and the environmental agency that hand in hand betray the farmers and the consumers. This attitude gives way to the agro-chemical corporates and to politicians that are involved in the transgenic job. They have the interest that situation goes out of control and that the country to be invaded again with GMOs. We hope that the court starts working again soon and that it will give us justice in useful time like it happened in other european countries”,* concluded Paun.

### **CONTACT:**

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### **NOTES:**

[1] Letter 1/2536/MF/02.07.2009 of ANPM to Agent Green  
Letter 137746/20.07.2009 of Agriculture Ministry to Agent Green

[2] Information regarding precedent court case of Mr Pierre Azelvandre from France to reveal locations where GMOs have been cultivated:

<http://tinyurl.com/m9grot>