

First victory in the public debate on the changes in GMO law

Sofia, January 28, 2010

Following the strong pressure by the public, the experts' arguments and the numerous meetings the Ministry of Environment stepped back and accepted most of the suggestions of environmental organizations referring to the proposed changes in the GMO law.

On January 26 in the National Assembly the MPs and representatives of the Ministry of Environment listened to the opinions of representatives of environmental NGOs, consumers' and mothers' initiative groups, and experts about the changes proposed by the government.

Minister Karadzova announced that the Ministry of Environment accepts the bigger part of the requests:

- To keep the prohibition to release into the environment in the area of the National ecological network and in the vicinity of organic fields
- To accept the re-examination of the spatial isolations in GM culture fields

The GMO law will be returned for re-consideration in a special working group in the Parliament with the participation of NGO experts, as well as in the consultative committee on GMO in the Ministry of Environment. The new suggestions of "For the Nature Coalition" and other NGOs will be discussed.

"The spirit has been released from the bottle. The society is more and more interested in what the crops are in Bulgarian fields and what do the Bulgarians eat. More and more people know what is GMO and every step with regard to GMO by the governmental institutions will be under strict control by the society", said Svetla Nikolova, a representative of "For the Nature" and chair of AGROLINK Association.

AGROLINK's mission is to promote sustainable agriculture, to coordinate national organic farmers' network, to support protection of the environment and the implementation of sustainable development principles.