



## FEFAC calls on Member States to urgently adopt the “technical solution” for imports of feed containing traces of GM events not yet approved in the EU

Brussels, 8 February 2011

(11) CP-5

Calling on Member States to take their responsibility at the upcoming EU vote on the “technical solution” proposal programmed on 8 April 2011, FEFAC President Patrick Vanden Avenne highlighted that, “the EU cannot afford to wait any longer after almost 5 years of discussion on the impact of the EU 0-tolerance policy on traces of GMOs not yet approved in the EU in feed materials imported from third countries”.

“The EU livestock sector, in particular the pig farmers, is currently facing the most severe crisis for decades. At a time when livestock farmers are struggling with high feed costs due to record world price levels for cereals, we risk losing market access to the South American spring soybean crop with dramatic consequences for the supply of protein-rich feedstuffs due to the present EU 0-tolerance policy”.

“No one can deny that the economic and social risk for the EU livestock chain and the EU consumer is real and will further increase as the number of GM events authorised worldwide but not yet authorised in the UE increases every month. It’s time for the EU to catch up with the reality of global expansion of GM crop acreage to ensure feed and food security of EU livestock farmers and consumers by adopting the “technical solution” as a first step in the right direction”<sup>1</sup>.

### Background

On 8 February 2011, EU Member States will be invited by the EU Commission to adopt technical measures aiming at avoiding future trade disruptions on imports from third countries of feed materials containing traces of GM events not yet approved in the EU<sup>2</sup>. The EU livestock sector could face a meltdown in the coming months if the EU should not be able to import enough protein-rich feedstuffs.

The EU Commission proposal foresees a.o. a technical threshold of 0.1% for GM events not yet approved in the EU but for which a dossier for authorisation and a method of analysis have been introduced at EFSA level.

FEFAC and other EU feed and food chain organisations have continually warned the EU and national authorities of the consequences of this 0-tolerance policy on EU economic operators and consumers. They shared with the authorities independent economic impact assessments pointing to a “bill” of almost 4 bio. € to partners in the feed chain, livestock industry and EU consumers. The cost tag could rise even higher in the coming months should the EU not be able to import anymore soybean meal from South America.

### Note for editors

1. FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers’ Federation, represents 21 national Associations in 20 EU Member States as well as Associations in Switzerland, Turkey, Norway, Croatia, Serbia and Russia with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 110,000 persons on app. 4,500 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.
2. Farm animals in the EU-27 consume an estimated 465 million tonnes of feed a year, of which about 30% are produced by the compound feed manufacturers. Turnover of the European compound feed industry in 2010 is estimated at € 45 billion.
3. For more information see our web site ([www.fefac.eu](http://www.fefac.eu)) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: [fefac@fefac.eu](mailto:fefac@fefac.eu).

<sup>1</sup> Reference to JRC

<sup>2</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health – Section GM food and feed – 8/9 February 2011