

# BRUSSELS SOY DECLARATION

Some Member States of the European Union have passed national regulations that enable food producers and manufacturers as well as brand owners and retailers to label food items as GMO-free in the respective national languages. Consumers are thus given a clear choice they can exercise in the supermarket. Where implemented, such regulations have sometimes caused a significant increase in the sale of food products labeled accordingly. Consequently, the demand for certified non-GM ingredients is rising.

For animal products (milk, eggs, meat), soybeans or soy meal mainly imported from overseas represent the single largest component through which GMOs wind up in feeding troughs and thus in the supply chain.

Brazil is by far the world's largest producer of soybeans that are NOT genetically modified. The largest part of the soy products that are sold globally and labeled as GMO-free originates in Brazil. Whether the European food industry, food retail industry and consumers will continue to have a choice in future will therefore depend almost entirely on decisions taken by the Brazilian soy industry. A significant influence is exercised by other operators in the supply and production chains that usually take soy ingredients to the consumer.

**The signatories** of this Declaration include representatives of the industries that use soy in their food and livestock production, as well as representatives of the European food retail industry, which provide consumers with food products every day.

In recognition of the aforementioned facts, **the signatories**, being aware that:

- Brazil is currently by far the most important producer of GMO-free soybeans,
- in 2005 Brazilian law legalized the planting of GM soybeans,
- since 2005 the percentage of conventional, non-GMO, soybeans in the Brazilian overall crop volume has continued to decrease year by year,
- this development is the consequence of an increased demand from China for GMO soy that causes the redirection of the Brazilian flow of commodities from Europe to Asia and diminishes the significance of GMO-free soy for Brazilian agriculture,
- the availability of conventional, non-GMO, soybeans has by now reached a relatively low production level,
- segregated logistics and storage are, from time to time, restricting factors for the segregated GMO-free supply chain,
- foreign buyers, in particular from Europe, are paying significant premiums for certified non-GMO soybeans and soy meal on top of the market price for these products

**hereby declare** their full support of the continued, and even expanded, production of GMO-free soy in Brazil in order to provide European consumers with GMO-free food products, thereby giving them the option to exercise their right to individual food sovereignty.

**The signatories** to this Declaration **appeal** to all interested parties in Brazil which are in the widest sense involved with the GMO-free soy production in that country, including seed production, farming, storage and processing, as well as with the transportation and export of soybeans and soy meal.

We jointly endorse and support the following measures:

1. **Ensuring** the expanded and widespread availability of conventional, i.e. of GMO-free soybean seed for farmers wishing to produce conventional soy,
2. **Developing** a legal and commercial environment that strongly supports conventional, GMO-free, soy production,
3. **Ensuring** fair distribution of the Non-GMO premium fetched on the international markets to all participants in the supply chain, including Brazilian agricultural producers,
4. **Enabling** the continued and widespread availability of segregated storage systems and IP systems necessary for delivering certified non-GMO soy commodities to international markets,
5. **Expanding** segregated logistics for transportation of non-GMO commodities to the export facilities in seaports,
6. **Providing** continued and expanded segregated storage and loading space in port facilities in order to be able to handle the volumes of certified non-GMO soy in demand in Europe.

These measures are in the end intended to ensure the coexistence of GMO and non-GMO product flows in the short and long term.

The Brussels Soy Declaration is an initiative of:



Colruyt Group is one of the leading retail companies in Belgium. It operates in Belgium, France and Luxembourg with some 400 own stores and over 500 affiliated stores. The group has sales of over EUR 7.8 billion.



The Deutsche Verband Tiernahrung e. V. (DVT) is the association for the animal feed and nutrition sector. As an independent trade association, it represents the companies that manufacture and trade in feed, premixed feed and additives for livestock and pets.



The more than 4,000 independent dealers of the EDEKA association, which represents small and mid-sized businesses and cooperatives, have a unique history going back over 100 years. In 2011, EDEKA, with its 12,000 markets and over 306,000 employees, posted sales of EUR 45.6 billion. EDEKA seeks to contribute to the preservation of nature and resources – also for future generations – and supports the growing availability of environmentally friendly products.



Kaiser's Tengelmann GmbH is part of the Tengelmann Group of Companies, an international trading concern, that also includes the subsidiaries OBI, KiK and Plus Online. The companies in this group are active in 15 European countries and employ some 80,000 people in over 4,000 branches. Its annual sales exceed EUR 10 billion.



Kaufland Group operates more than 1,000 self-service stores and general stores in Germany and Eastern Europe. The company is located in Neckarsulm, Germany.  
[csr@kaufland.de](mailto:csr@kaufland.de)



As a member of the Schwarz Group of Companies with headquarters in Neckarsulm, Lidl is among the leading companies in the retail food sector in Germany. The company is also active throughout Europe. In Germany over 30 legally independent regional companies with some 3,300 branches and 65,000 employees work to ensure customer satisfaction.



Netto Marken-Discount, a subsidiary of the EDEKA association, offers the best quality at very reasonable prices, and convinces its 19 million customers each week with an attractive choice of over 3,500 items in more than 4,000 Netto outlets. We specialize in fresh regional foods, and our product range is rounded out by a broad Organics selection and environmentally friendly reusable products.



The cooperative REWE Group is one of the leading trade and tourism groups in Germany and Europe. In 2012, the company generated a total external turnover exceeding EUR 50 billion. REWE Group operates 15,500 stores with 327,000 employees in 13 European countries.



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The 14 members of the Swiss soy network represent purchasers, producer associations, labeling and environmental organizations, manufacturers and retailers (Coop, Migros) in the soy sector. Their goal is to convert at least 90 % of soy imports to responsible and certified production by 2014.

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Sonae is the largest Portuguese retail company, with two major partnerships in the shopping centres (Sonae Sierra) and in the telecom, SSI&media sectors (Sonaecom). Sonae is the largest non-financial group, with a consolidated turnover of EUR 5.74 billion in 2011.

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The SPAR Austria Group is a Central European retail group with outlets in Austria, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Croatia. In 2012, the SPAR Austria Group achieved an overall turnover of EUR 12.58 billion.

[www.spar.at/nachhaltigkeit](http://www.spar.at/nachhaltigkeit)



tegut... is a mid-sized food dealer that for years has stood for conscientious management of food and nutrition issues and their consequences for humans and for nature. This was the basis for our early criticism of Green Gene Technology and our engagement with VLOG (Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik), the association for food without gene technology.

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