

CONTRIBUTION OF THE [GMO-FREE EUROPEAN REGIONS NETWORK](#) TO THE OPEN DEBATE ON THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY POLICY

[Green Paper on EU agricultural product quality policy](#)

The GMO-free European Regions Network, which consists of 47 regions and local authorities from 8 European countries, share a united goal of being able to declare themselves, either in full or in part, as being free of genetically modified crops. The Network believes that this is a basic human right of free choice and also supports the free trade principles of the EU.

The Network is equally committed to protecting *the reputation of European regional agro-food production, which has developed following years of regional policies aimed at improving and protecting the quality of its green produce and reducing the environmental impact of agriculture.* Indeed the quality of European agro-food produce is already widely appreciated by a diverse range of consumers across Europe and to build on this success will further help develop the sustainability credentials of EU agriculture.

The quality of produce can therefore be directly associated to the country of origin and certain geographic areas are '*de facto*' a quality trade-mark that might be negatively affected by GM crops. Thus, if a region is considered to be GMO-free, then it can add value to the quality of the produce produced by these regions and which should be mentioned in the labeling of their agro-food production. The Network therefore considers the role of GM crops as being relevant to the on-going debate on the Green Paper.

Given the above, and with regard to question number 3 of the Green Paper, the GMO-free European Regions Network:

- **SUPPORTS a specific EU regulatory rule drafted by the Commission, in which the optional reserved terms describing farming methods in particular sectors must be laid down**
- **AND REQUESTS 'non-GMO' and 'grown in a GMO-free area' to be considered as optional reserved terms.**

Brussels, 3rd December 2008