

Oral Statement on behalf of Aktion GEN-Klage Germany
to the Committee on economic, social and cultural Rights

64th session, September 2018

Parallel Report to the 6th State Report of the Federal Republic of Germany
on the Implementation of the International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Violation of Human Rights in Agriculture - the Right of Self-Determination, on Food, on Health, on Freedom of Sciences & Research **of Bee-Keepers and Consumers - by the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in Germany**

Honourable members of the Committee,

The information given in our parallel-report focusses again upon implementing genetically modified organisms (GMO) in food production and agriculture. - massively and even fatally violating the human rights.

Germany has already been urged to this topic by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Human Rights in 2011

- (9) (10) to fully apply a human rights-based approach to its international trade, development- and agriculture policies, as well as in its support and in investments by German companies in developing countries .
- (35 ii) to include in its now available State Report information on its policy regarding the protection of health in the context of food containing genetically modified organisms.

Contrary to its statement in the current State Report, the German government has not implemented these two points. On the contrary - the gene companies are developing new strategies, Germany is increasingly shifting its production abroad, where German laws such as genetic engineering law (for the protection of citizens) do not have to be applied. About the increasing number of free trade agreements with producer countries such as Mexico, Brazil, etc. , as well as approvals for the import of genetically modified feed and food - the application of previous rules is successfully circumvented by the companies. So genetic engineering ends up on our plates unregulated and uncontrolled, not to mention the untested consequences.

Sentences such as "**A genetically modified organism placed on the market after the approval has been granted can also be revoked if concerns arise regarding its safety**" show that the Federal Government has no idea about the matter with which it is acting so carelessly. Genetically modified organisms cannot be stopped again, captured, withdrawn, denied a licence and then they are gone again. Just this sentence makes it clear how irresponsible and ignorant our government deals with new techniques that will adversely affect our future all negative.

1.) Policy of health protection current status:

Although there is at the moment no genetic engineering in the cultivation and in the open land research in Germany - thanks to a big opposition of the population - the proportion of genetically modified feed and food in Germany is rising dramatically

- **violation of health caused by new genetic varieties** They are not less dangerous and have been released uncontrolled until now or "approved without risk assessment".

- **More and more genetic engineering is imported into the EU via feed and food approvals:**

"Currently, around 60 GM plants are already approved in the EU for import and use in food and feed. Many of them have never been tested for possible health risks in feeding studies." (testbiotech 17.04.18)

- **Coexistence not possible - contamination with genetically modified organisms is increasing - caused inter alia by the feed transports of genetically modified rape, genetically modified soya and others through Europe:**

- Genetically modified food and feed, which do not have to be labeled in their countries of origin, will soon be marketed in Europe without labeling as a result of the opening of markets through free trade agreements such as CETA and Mercosur.

Current examples:

- Genetically modified apples from the USA (they no longer get brown)
- Gene salmon from the USA (they grow faster than normal - more profit)

- **Which genetically modified organisms can we expect in the next few years?**

"In contrast, the release of genetically modified fruit- and olive flies is planned in Europe. If these plans were implemented, it would be more or less impossible to control the spread of genetic engineered insects. It would therefore also not be possible to "prevent any negative consequences for the ecosystems" and our food. (Testbiotech 26.1.17)

Imports of genetically modified soya etc. lead to human rights violations in the producing countries and destroy the livelihoods of our farmers. The German government is therefore obliged to protect farmers and consumers in a first step to secure farmers and their autonomy in their own country and **thus a regional supply** for our food sovereignty and not to encourage big food companies that outsource their production and destroy local peasant agriculture and, in the next step, the "new" producer countries.

Bayer-Monsanto fusion - a corporate decision with far-reaching consequences - also for human rights

With this decision the... farmers face even more dependencies, a further restriction of variety selection and diversity,... price dictates, aggravation of the patent situation and monopoly formation in the field... of agriculture. We will not allow multinationals to decide what to put on our fields and plates in the future." (ABL - Working Group on Rural Agriculture -Press Release 21. 3. 18) We call on the... Federal Government to set up a state seed fund, that promotes transparent and democratic, ecological and conventional breeding projects that develop seed-solid, reproducible, GMO-free seeds... On the other hand, the promotion of the large seed companies via million-dollar research programs has to be stopped." (ABL 21.3.18)

The Monsanto Tribunal charges the Company for violations of human rights worldwide. In our report you find the **demands of human rights justice**, which are now also

directed at the German government as the new headquarter of the Group. **The time is ripe to protect the effectiveness of international human rights and environmental law against the conduct of multinational corporations by authoritative bodies like the State.**

We urge to the Federal Government :

- To Stop and ban the use of genetic engineering in animal feed, food production and agriculture immediately. This also includes new breeding and the release of genetically modified trees and animals.
- An immediate genetically modified soy import ban from abroad and promote feed strategies in Germany to protect our farmers and agriculture
- To condemn Monsanto-Bayer for the damage caused by Monsanto and thus to comply with its international obligations. The Federal Government as the seat of the group has to prevent the further causing of such human rights violations by law.

We urge the Committee to urge the Federal Government to implement its non-compliance with its obligations under the concluding observations to date.

We urge the committee with all its possibilities to set the right course so that a long-term observance of the human right to food sovereignty etc. will still be possible!

For further questions and information please don't hesitate to contact us.
We thank you very much about your interest and your support!

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