
EU authorises GM maize for import, processing

By Editor

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BRUSSELS, March 28, 2008 (AFP) - The European Commission authorised on Friday a strain of genetically modified maize for import and processing but maintained a ban on its cultivation in the 27-nation bloc.

The strain, known as GA21, is already authorised for use in food and feed.

'Today's decision extends the authorisation of products derived from GA21 to maize grains and thus allows imports from third countries where this GMO is cultivated,' the commission said in a statement.

EU member states hold responsibility for jointly deciding whether GM products should be allowed on the market but frequently are unable to make a decision because they are divided on the subject.

As a result, the decision reverts to the European Commission, which usually follows the advice of the European Food Safety Authority.

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