

Brussels, 12th February 2014

Mr Tonio Borg
Commissioner
European Commission
Brussels

Dear Commissioner,

Yesterday's discussion at the General Affairs Council on GMOs made clear that in the particular problem at hand, the extremely sensitive question of whether to authorise the genetically modified maize GM 1507, the solution is in the hands of the Commission. The Commission is still in position to withdraw its proposal.

An overwhelming majority of stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States have repeatedly opposed the proposal. Yesterday, in particular, only 5 Member States supported it and 19 were against. That kind of an outcome would not yield approval under any other decision making procedure, amply underlining the validity and usefulness of the Commission's 1999 pledge not to go against predominant majorities in such cases.

We are convinced that the Commission cannot ignore the legal, political and scientific concerns voiced by so many Member States and the general political landscape.

We are therefore confident that, by considering the horizontal impact of the issue, the Commission will withdraw the proposal.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Kurz
Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Austria

Kristian VIGENIN
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

Ioannis KASOULIDES,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus

Thierry REPENTIN
Minister for European Affairs, France

Enikő GYŐRI
Minister of State for European Affairs, Hungary

Enzo Moavero MILANESI
Minister for European Affairs, Italy

Edgars RINKEVICS
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia

Vytautas Leškevičius,
Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania

Jean ASSELBORN
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg

Piotr SERAFIN
Minister for European Affairs, Poland

Igor SENCAR,
State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

Louis GRECH,
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for European Affairs, Malta