

Consequences

of the European Court of Justice ECJ decision of Sept. 6th, 2011
on the zero tolerance to pollen from GMOs in bee products

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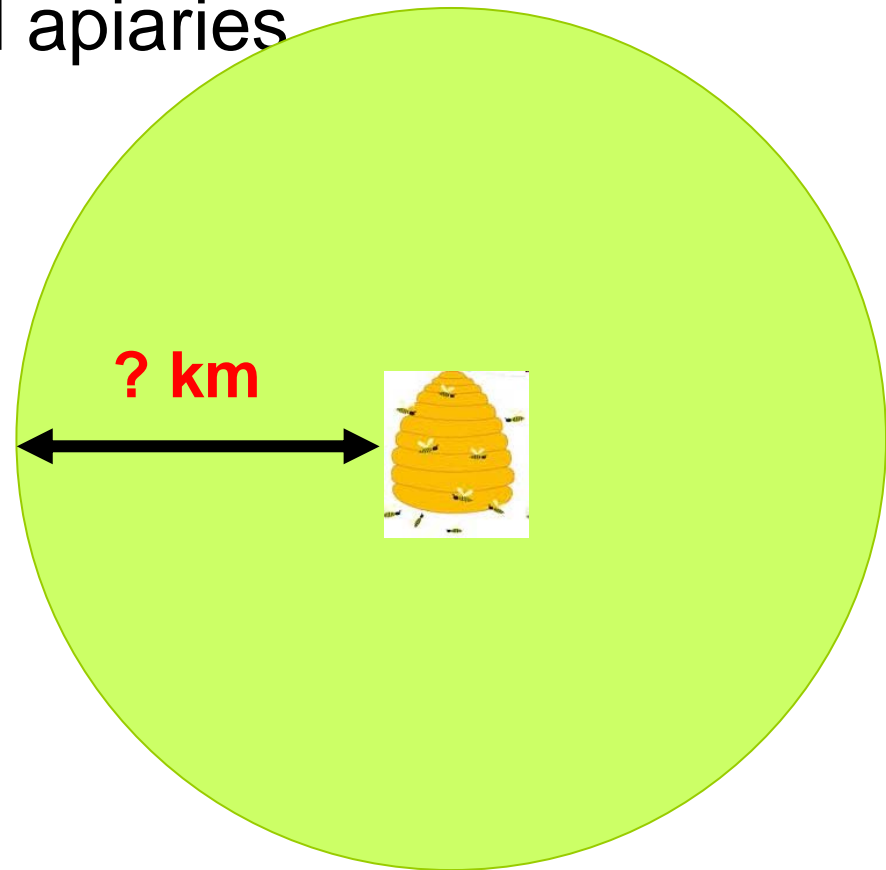
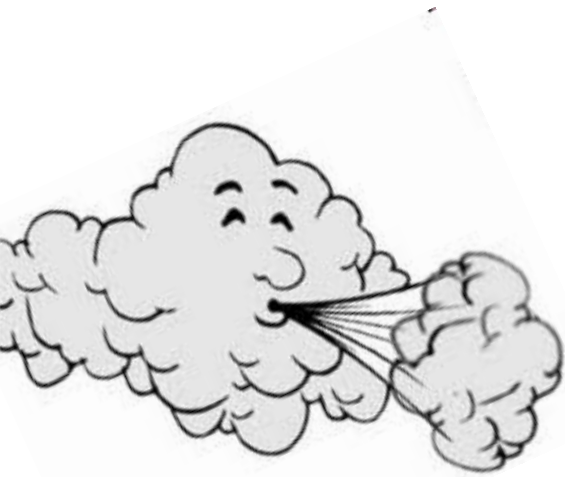
- bees
- producers
- processors
- traders
- consumers

- Prospects



Consequences for the *bees*

- suspected health hazards from GMOs are not scientifically verified – unless proven otherwise
- more frequent migration – increased stress
- perhaps more evenly spread apiaries



Consequences for producers

for farmers:



- risk of claim for damages
- confined choice of cultivation
 - reason to consider alternatives:
crop rotation – enhanced diversity – soil life
- lower yields in case of apiary removal by the beekeeper

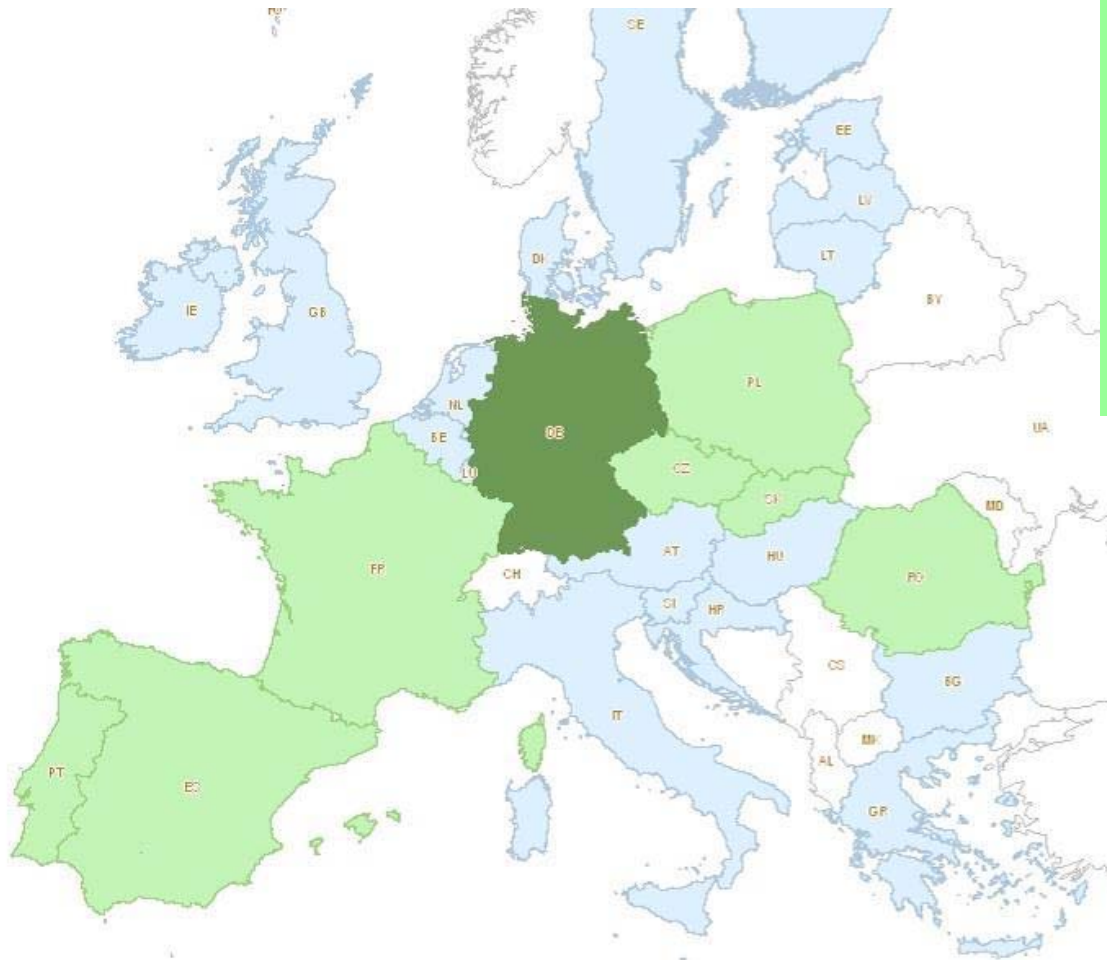


Consequences for *beekeepers*:

- checking register for GMO sites – if available (e.g. Chile, Germany)
- in case of suspect for GMO cultivation around: careful choice of apiary location – perhaps shift to location with wild flora for reduced risk of contamination



GMO cultivation
registered, no
public access,
data not
published



Registered GMO
cultivation,
public access to
data



GMO maize

2010: ca. 70.000 ha

**= ca. 14% of total
maize cultivation**

At the moment, the co-existence of GMO and apiculture is problematic in Spain. GMO maize covers 14% of the total cultivation – 80% of all GMO crops in Europe. Only sales are registered. For the beekeeper it is impossible to know if his apiaries are close to GMO fields, nor does he know what is a safe distance to them.

- labelling of containers with comprehensive information about origin
- analysis costs in case of sales to processors / retailers – if required
- further decisions pending – legal uncertainty
- take action: lobbying (associations), protest & resistance actions against pro-GMO policy and cultivation, sensitize consumers
- increased price levels



Correct labelling of honey

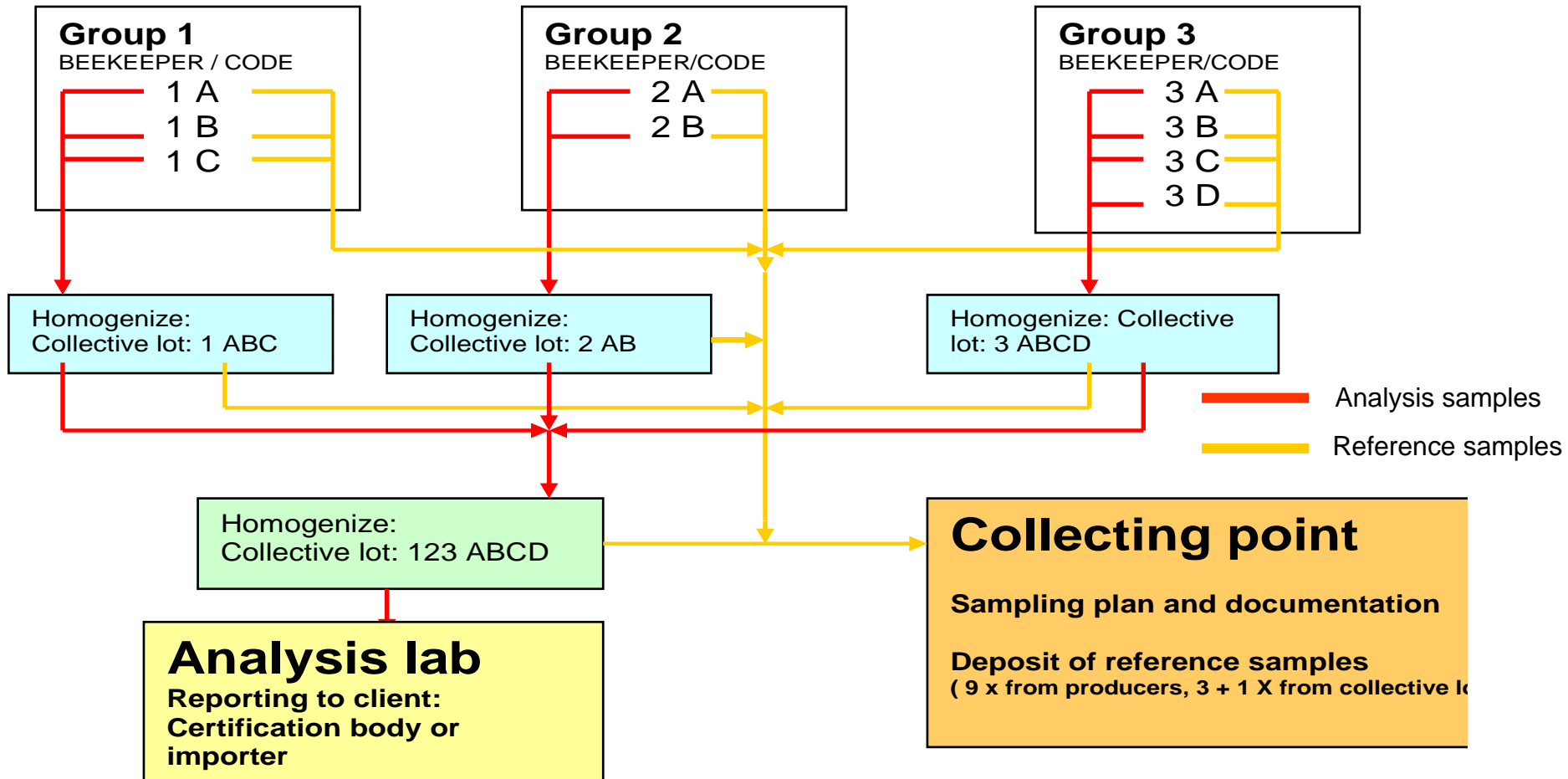
Producer (name/code)	Franz Maller
Foraging area	B-valley/GPS coordinates
Collecting point/date	Co-op Betal 11.5.03
Client (if applicable)	Meier, Cestadt
Harvest month/year	03/2005
Honey type	Polyflora
Net weight	297 kg
Container/drum no.	2 / 12

Lot-No. **FMA 05 2**

Sampling date 10-3-120010

Analysis no.: xxxxxxxxxx

Sketch for sampling honey and wax for sampling purpose e.g. Co-operative of 9 producers in 3 villages



Labelling of sampling containers: Code-/lot-no., substance, designation of analysis, date of harvest, date and place of sampling, inspector's name, signature of inspector and producer

Entry in sampling plan!! Storage of reference samples: cool, dark, airtight

Consequences *for processors* of

honey and pollen in bakery products, sweets, brans, drinks, pharmaceuticals, food supplements

- absolute diligence when purchasing honey from regions with suspected GMO cultivation
- analyzed lots
- separation of lots until analysis results are available
- blending after approval only
- issue of a product guarantee
- certification



Technical means to remove pollen

Microfiltration is applied

- to prevent crystallisation
- to remove yeasts for preservation
- sometimes to disclose the true origin



Not accepted in organic production.

Consequences for *traders*

- establish trust and reliability between partners
- transparency of product chain
- check bargains for legal compliance
- keep retain samples of all lots
- contractual liability exclusion in case of fraud by seller
- co-operation with authorities
- in case of GMO detection: removal from shelves / product recall campaign



Consequences for the *consumer*

- awareness of consumers' key role
- reflect consume behavior
- observe the origin of food
- accept higher prices
- collect and disseminate information via networks



Put pressure

- on policy makers
 - on the food industry
 - on seed companies
-
- join field occupations
 - inform press/TV about campaigns



Support

- organic production
- critical consumer organizations/
protest movements



Future prospects

- keen interests of the biotech /seed industry remain
- transnational companies influence legislative bodies by strong lobbying, farmer's and consumer's minds by propaganda.
- actual legal settings of today might undergo revision





The expert carousel

Civil society action groups observe of TNCs activities.
At the end the consumer will vote by choosing GMO-free products – as long as they are available



THANK YOU !