OPEN LETTER
regarding Recent Research by Professor Gilles-Eric Seralini

The latest paper by the French scientist, Professor Gilles-Eric Seralini, concerns a very important problem – the health risks of foodstuffs produced using GMO technology.

Prof Seralini has long postulated that the current methods of GMO product health-hazard evaluation are inappropriate, mainly because of the lack of sufficiently long-term animal testing procedures. The second major error committed in GMO health safety research is that the toxicity of the herbicides used in the cultivation of Genetically Modified Organisms, the residues of which penetrate through to the food chain, is disregarded and ignored.

Prof Seralini’s research team fed rats with GMO maize for two years. Also investigated were the effects of consuming Roundup, the herbicide commonly used to treat GMO crops. Both GMO fodder and Roundup caused hormonal disorders, damage to the liver, kidneys and the pituitary gland, an increased incidence of mammary gland cancer, and a dramatically increased mortality rate.

The publication of the results of Prof Seralini’s research provoked a violent backlash from various scientific and business communities. There is no doubt that the main reason behind this criticism is the biotechnological industry’s fear of losing profits if GMO crops are banned. Equally violent criticism had been waged earlier against researchers who dared to write the truth about the lethal effects of GMO, such as Arpad Pusztai, Ignacio Chapela, Emma Rosi-Marshall, Andres Carrasco, or Manuela Malatesta. In fact, in many cases the seemingly objective criticism was animated by GMO business through specially hired PR agencies.

The main charge that has been raised against Prof Seralini is that the breed of rats he used in his research (Sprague-Dawley) is more susceptible to cancer than other breeds, and that the testing sample was too small. It is worth remembering, however, that Sprague-Dawley rats have been used for decades to test the toxicity of various substances and have never been controversial as an animal model in medical research. Also the size of the testing groups was typical for this kind research, including the majority of GMO research approved by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

We hereby wish to express our support for Prof Seralini. We believe that the bitter attacks directed against him are incompatible with the principles of academic integrity and scientific ethics. It is scientists’ job to refute dogmas, even this dogma concerns the safety of a widely used and commercially successful product.

We believe that the existing controversies mean that Prof Seralini’s experiment should be repeated in other, independent laboratories – and only then should conclusions be drawn as to the pertinence of his results. At the present stage, it needs to be acknowledged that the French team’s research constitutes an important signal about the possible negative health effects of a long-term diet containing GMO and/or Roundup.

For the sake of circumspection, we are calling for the Polish Government to follow the example of other European Union member states and introduce an effective and immediate ban on GMO crops, including especially MON 810 maize and Amflora potatoes, and to introduce a moratorium on the use of GMO components in human and animal foodstuffs in the Republic of Poland.

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Examples of research using Sprague - Dawley rats:


Examples of testing group sizes:


Examples of testing group sizes in EFSA - approved research: