

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND NOVEL FOOD LEGAL REGULATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Charávtová Jana, L Babička, L. Kouřimská

Abstract

Legal regulation of genetically modified organisms and novel food is relatively new. The most important regulations concerning this matter were adopted at the end of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century. The necessity to adopt such regulations was caused by progress of biotechnology and also was motivated by effort to protect human and animal health and to protect environment.

Public has mainly focused on legal regulation of genetically modified organisms - their authorisation, placing on the market etc. The European Community has adopted regulations concerning these subjects, but there are various different legal regulations in several member states, which reflect their attitude to GMO, concerning co-existence regulation.

There are member states of the EC which have positive attitude to GMO and support planting and consumption of GM food, on the other hand there are member states, which try to ban GMO and break the European law by their legislative and administrative measures. From this point of view the Czech Republic is rather on the side of GMO supporters. The Czech Republic respects EC legal regulation, has harmonised its own GMO Act and during authorisation of new GMO usually does not have any objections.