

International Workshop

on the consequences of the ECJ judgement on GM pollen in honey for GM crop releases and cultivation in Germany and the EU

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Consequences of the ECJ judgement on the Fair Trade honey import to Germany

GEPA's Trading partners are groups of small beekeepers in Latin America and Africa. Fair Trade beekeepers and Fair Trade honey importers have to deal with several contradictions. On the one hand widespread GM plantations are a reality in South America. There is no scientific proof that traces of GM pollen in honey are a health risk for the consumer. On the other hand there is a general lack of acceptance towards GMOs among German consumers. The legal postulation of zero tolerance is disproportional to the risk a GM pollen grain represents for consumer's health. The economic risk faced by honey importers becomes incalculable, especially taking into consideration that honey from groups of small beekeepers often is not homogenized. Beekeepers in these countries are „punished“ by refusal of the importers to buy and/or lower prices. The only way out of this dilemma has to be a pragmatic solution: The coexistence of widespread GM plantations and beekeeping has to be regulated on a realistic level.