

## Most EU nations to ban growing GMO crops

*New rule allowing EU member states to opt out of GMO cultivation*

by Sustainable Food News

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Nearly all of the European Union's (EU) 28 member states seek to ban the cultivation of crops made with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) within their borders under a new law allowing them to do so.

The new law signed in March allows individual EU members to request to be excluded, or opt-out, for all or part of their territory from the cultivation of GMO crops authorized at the EU level for all 28 nations.

The [European Commission, the executive arm of the EU](#), reported that Latvia, France, Austria, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany (except for research), Italy, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Belgium's Wallonia region, Lithuania, Cyprus, and Bulgaria have all requested to be excluded from GMO crops cultivation. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have also

requested to opt-out but not England.

Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta, and the [Slovenian Government Committee for Economic Affairs](#) have also reportedly submitted requests to the EC for the banning of GMO crops, specifically from growing Monsanto Company's MON810 genetically modified corn.

Under the new law, the EC is responsible for approving the opt-out requests but they also have to be submitted to the biotech company applying for GMO cultivation at the EU level.

The only two EU countries currently allowing the cultivation of GMO crops are Spain and Portugal.