

www.iht.com/articles/2004/11/30/opinion/edlet.html

http://www.iht.com/articles/2004/12/01/edlet_ed3_2.php

http://www.iht.com/bin/print_ipub.php?file=/articles/2004/12/01/edlet_ed3_2.php

http://www.iht.com/articles/2004/12/09/edlet_ed3_25.php



EU protectionism : LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

International Herald Tribune

Thursday, December 9, 2004

It comes as no surprise that the European Union is running a protectionist racket in the guise of its genetically modified food ban policy ("Ducking the truth about Europe's GMO policy," Views, Nov. 26, by Lawrence Kogan).

The European strategy continues the tradition of the EU common agricultural policy that is to this day upheld on the grounds that it protects the environment and the "cultural landscape" when in truth it is mainly a protection scheme for European farmers.

The EU champions democracy and human rights throughout the world, especially in underdeveloped countries, while at the same time its protectionist policies strangle the poor countries' agricultural industries.

The good-conscienced, socially responsible, environmentally minded, EU citizen — still very comfortably ensconced in a bloated social state — has an ugly side: naked self-interest in the face of global economic competition.

Europeans are prepared to rig the market rules of play without batting an eyelid. No wonder bashing President George W. Bush and America is such a universally popular sport here. Its enables attention to be diverted.

Michael Eldred, Cologne, Germany

Biotech food : LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

International Herald Tribune

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Public fears over genetically modified food are almost certainly overblown. But as the recent Vioxx debacle and previous experiences with asbestos show, once in a while something we thought was safe turns out not to be. So when Lawrence Kogan ("Ducking the Truth about Europe's GMO Policy" Views, Nov. 27) derides the European Union's labeling rules as "potentially crippling" or even "arguably illegal," he protests too much.

Tricking people into eating GM food by not labeling it as such will only increase the already deep public skepticism about such products. Indeed, the impression that this technology was being foisted on the public without its input was largely responsible for the backlash in the first place.

Jeroen Agneessens, Tervuren, Belgium

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

I will not buy genetically modified foods until I know they are safe. It is not about trade for me, it is consumer preference.

I have seen too many products sold to the public only to be proven hazardous later. Hormone replacement therapy, for example, was touted as a woman's answer to everything and later, tests proved it less safe.

I want my food natural, thank you very much.

Donna-Lane Nelson, Corsier, Switzerland