



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT TO
THE EUROPEAN UNION

19 AVENUE DE L'URUGUAY
1050 BRUSSELS - BELGIUM

932/2003/MT

Brussels, the 27th of May 2003

Dear Mr. Murray,

Thank you for your letter dated the 21st of May in which you have kindly outlined the position of the European Consumers' Organization *vis-à-vis* the formal WTO complaint launched by the United States to challenge the current *de facto* moratorium applied by the European Union on the approval of new genetically modified organisms.

I would like to inform you however that, after a thorough review of the European Union's stance with regards to the production and marketing of genetically modified food and food ingredients, Egypt decided not to become a party to the motion for arbitration launched by the United States within the dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organization.

The Government of Egypt took this decision in conscious emulation of the need to preserve adequate and effective consumer and environmental protection, and with the desire to reduce further distortions and impediments to international trade that may result due to the further pursuit of this matter within the WTO.

Please accept, Mr. Murray, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Soliman Awaad
Ambassador

Mr. Jim Murray
Director, The European Consumers' Organization
Avenue de Tervuren, 36/4
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Fax #: +32 (0)2 740 28 02

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