



Stop patent monopolies on seeds!

We demand a moratorium for patents on plants and animals

We demand that the European Patent Office (EPO) takes urgent action to protect the common good by stopping patent monopolies on seeds. As long as we have no solution, there has to be a moratorium on patent applications for plants and animals!



Foto: Falk Heller/Argum, Sculptures: Freia Hellenkamp

After more than ten years of controversial debate, the EPO finally decided to prohibit patents on conventionally bred plants and animals. However, patents are still being granted on random mutation breeding. Several hundred conventionally bred varieties have already been affected by patents in Europe.

According to European laws, patents on “essentially biological processes” for the breeding of plants and animals are prohibited. However, there is no clear legal distinction to technical processes of genetic engineering. These gaps in legal clarity could be resolved in the decision-making process of the Administrative Council of the EPO, which represents 38 contracting states and is responsible for the correct interpretation of European patent law.

Quick decisions are needed to prevent large companies from taking more and more control of the seed markets. If the contracting states of the EPO need more time for discussions, a moratorium for pending decisions for patents on plants and animals has to be put in place.

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