



Template Version 2.07

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 12/5/2003

GAIN Report Number: NL3049

Netherlands

Biotechnology

Dutch Minister Calls on EU to Lift Barriers to Biotech Foods

2003

Approved by:

Roger Wentzel
U.S. Embassy, The Hague

Prepared by:

Morgan Perkins

Report Highlights:

On Wednesday December 3, the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, (formerly Minister of Agriculture) called for opening of the European market to US biotech crops.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

On Wednesday December 3, the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, (formerly Minister of Agriculture) called for opening of the European market to US biotech crops.

Europe should no longer exclude genetically modified agricultural products from the US, in the view of Economic Affairs Minister Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst. "The US rightly complains about trade barriers," he said yesterday in The Hague during a University of Leiden meeting.

Brinkhorst considers that the Netherlands has built up a good service position in biotechnology and that the country should grasp the promising economic opportunities flowing from this. The Netherlands and the other European countries react far too fearfully to the new opportunities, he believes. The US has thrown itself into them full of optimism.

According to Brinkhorst, the EU should revise its position on the import of US GM food. This could then simultaneously herald a less fearful attitude to biotechnology. "Otherwise I am afraid that America will further increase its lead and that the Netherlands and Europe will be overtaken by emerging countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, India and Singapore", the minister warned.

Source: ANP (Netherlands Press Agency).