

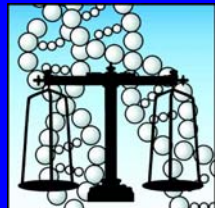
Public participation



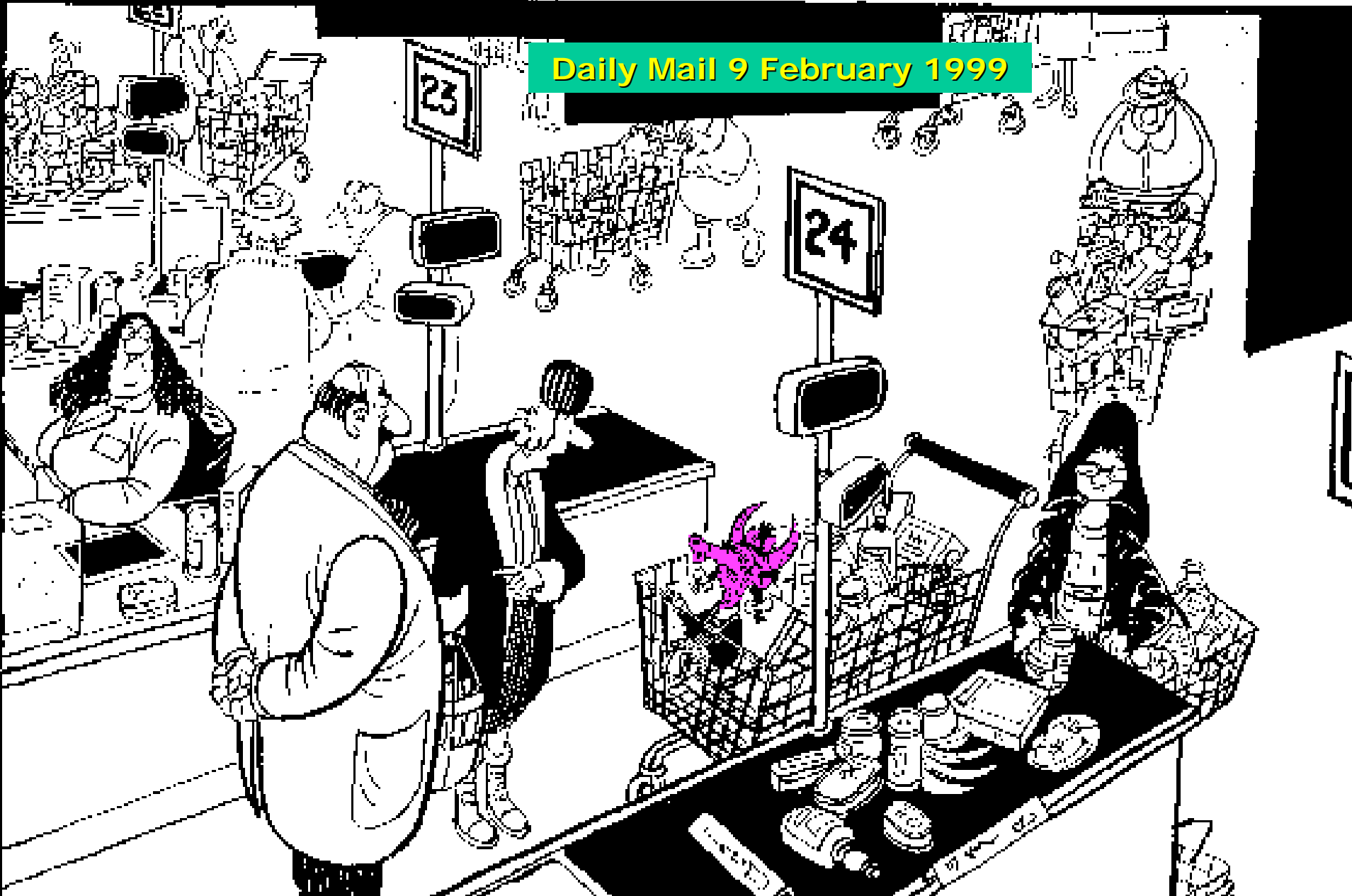
Professor Julian Kinderlerer

Sheffield Institute of Biotechnological Law &
Ethics

Sheffield University Law Department



Daily Mail 9 February 1999



Tell the manager the truth now. Have you been nibbling any of his genetically modified food before mummy has paid for it?



Sainsbury's



eggs from hens which are fed on a non-GM diet and who are free to enjoy fresh air and roam outdoors during the day.



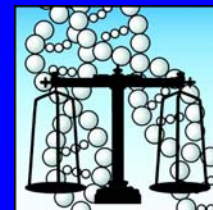
medium

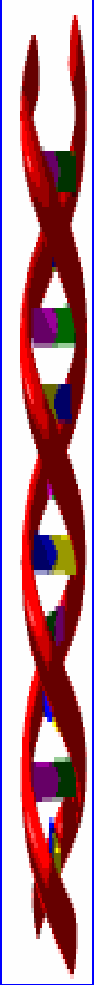
6 free range eggs

A 14 2330 5861
D0439 UK1998H
DISPLAY UNTIL
22 NOV
BEST BEFORE
29 NOV

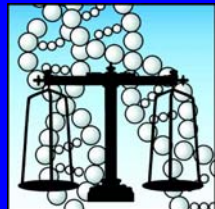


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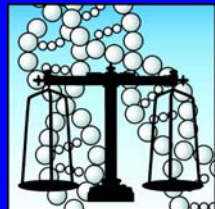


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Fear

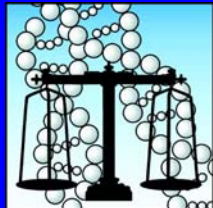
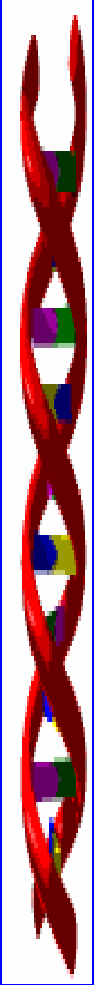
For reasons that are not entirely clear, but which involve fear of new technology, concern over food safety, concern at the possible environmental impact, concern at globalisation and the concentration of power in too few hands, there is considerable fear at the use of modern biotechnology for food....



Concern at GMOS amongst Europeans

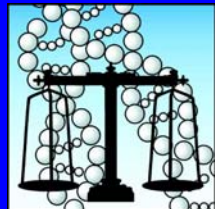
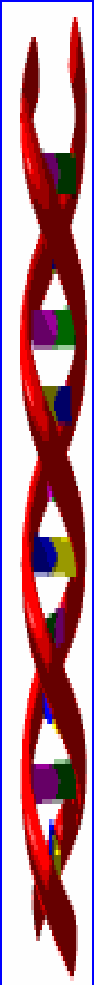
the feeling of danger varies only slightly according to the level of studies or knowledge of the persons questioned. ---

Eurobarometer surveys



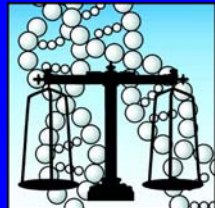
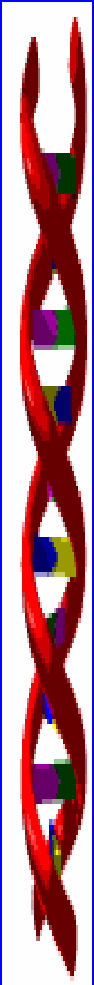
Which scientific and technical developments do you find most interesting?

Medicine	61.3%
Environment	51.6%
The internet	27.9%
Genetics	22.2%
Economics/Social	21.0%

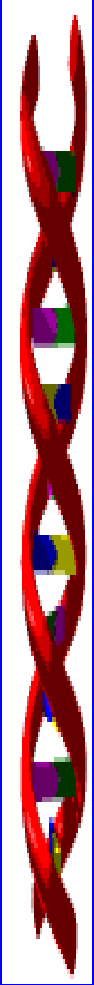


For which of the following professions do you have the most esteem?

Doctors	71.1%
Scientists	44.9%
Engineers	29.8%
Judges	27.6%
Lawyers	18.1%
Journalists	13.6% (UK 5.0%)
Politicians	6.6% (UK 6.3%)



Canada

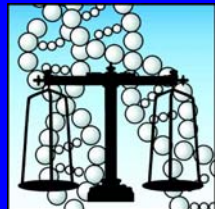


- In your opinion, should the presence of GMOs in food be clearly identified on the packaging?

Yes: 86.6% No: 3.6%

- Can you tell me what the acronym GMO stands for?

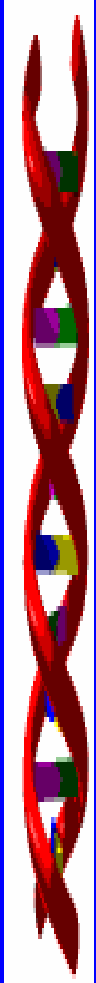
Yes: 12.8 % Don't know: 78.4%



Canada

In your opinion, is the presence of GMOs in food very dangerous, somewhat dangerous, not very dangerous or does it have no impact at all on people's health?

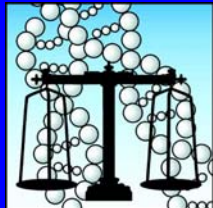
Very dangerous:	16.4%
Somewhat dangerous:	38.3%
Not very dangerous:	14.8 %
No impact at all	5.9 %

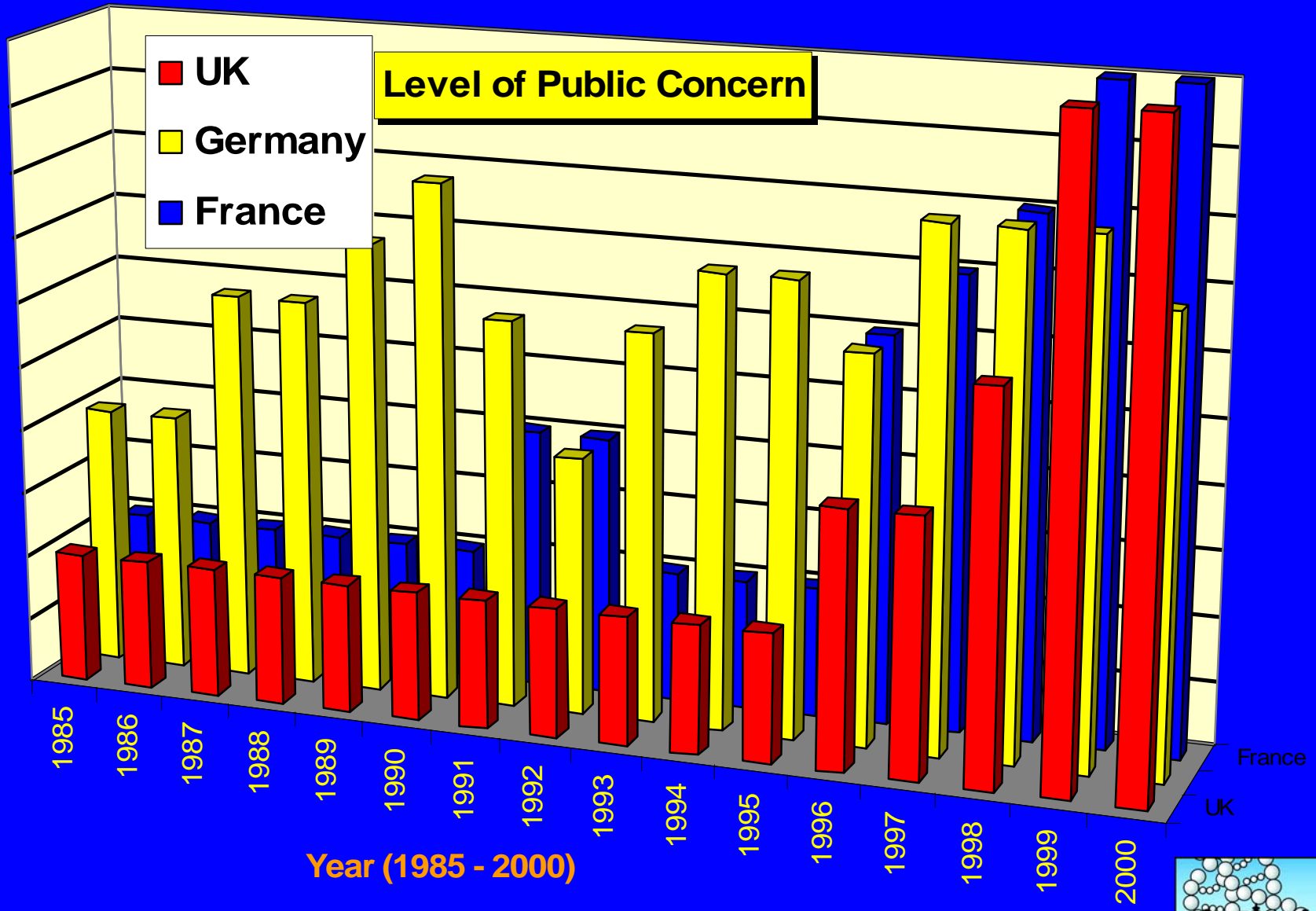
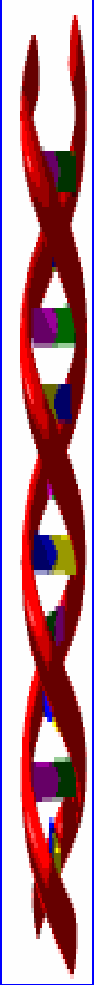


Public Engagement with Science

Public Perceptions of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Europe - the PABE Report - provides a set of questions relating to the perception by 'stakeholders' of the public understanding of science.....

Published December 2001

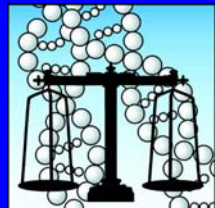
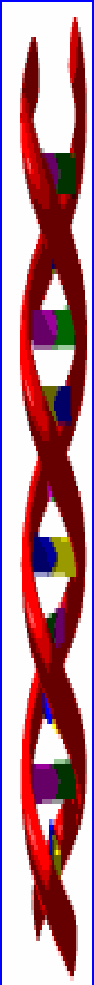




Myths or Truth?

1. The primordial cause of the problem is that lay people are ignorant about scientific facts

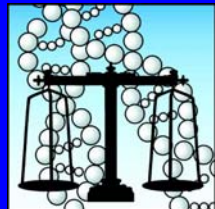
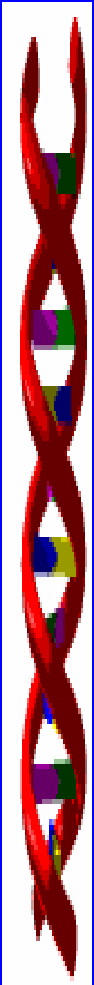
"people who smoke or mountain climb accept enormous risks, but these same people will not accept much smaller risks associated with GMOs!" (or nuclear technologies, or BSE, or dioxins...).



Myths or Truth?

1. The primordial cause of the problem is that lay people are ignorant about scientific facts

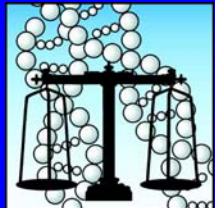
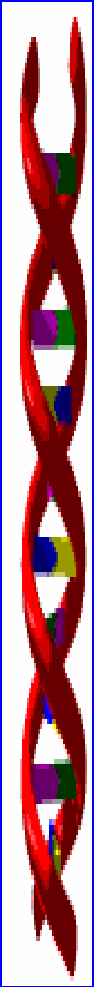
if only they understood the science better, they would be reassured and would accept GMOs.



Myths or Truth?

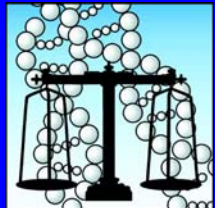
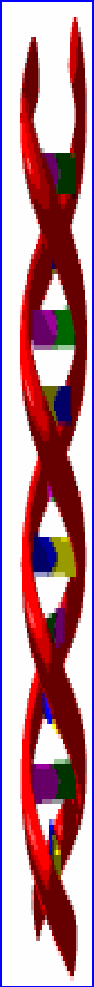
2. People are either 'for' or 'against' GMOs

3. Consumers accept medical GMOs but refuse GMOs used in food and agriculture



Myths or Truth?

4. *European consumers are behaving selfishly towards the poor in the Third World*
5. *Consumers want labelling in order to exercise their freedom of choice*
6. *The public thinks – ‘wrongly’ - that GMOs are unnatural*
7. *It's the fault of the BSE crisis: since then, citizens no longer trust regulatory institutions*

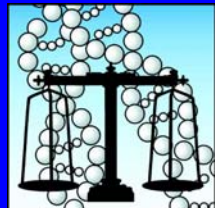
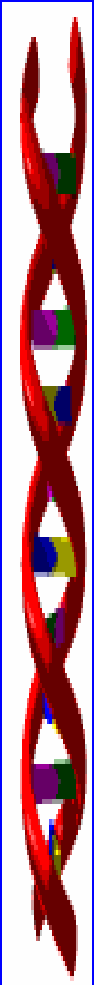


Myths or Truth?

8. The public demands "zero risk" - and this is not reasonable

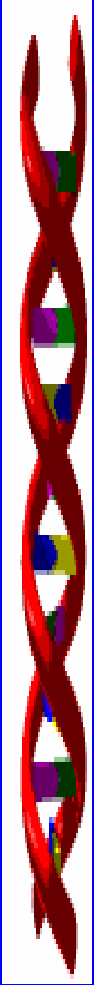
9. Public opposition to GMOs is due to "other" - ethical or political - factors

10. The public is a malleable victim of distorting sensationalist media



British Debate

- Science
- Economic
- Public
 - Meetings
 - Citizen's juries
 - Public opinion surveys
 -



04/01/2005

