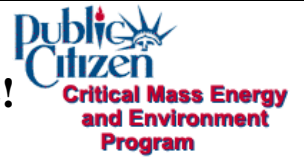




## ALERT: STOP FOOD IRRADIATION IN EUROPE!



**The European Parliament is at a pivotal point in deciding the future of food irradiation in Europe.** Food irradiation is the treatment of food with high doses of ionizing radiation. It prolongs shelf life, inhibits the sprouting of vegetables and kills bacteria and insects that infest foods.

**Food Irradiation is another avenue to globalization and harmonization.** The irradiation and agribusiness industries are pressuring governments to increase the use of irradiation on food, but irradiation has many potential dangers for consumers, workers, the environment and farmers.

Even though **food irradiation destroys vitamins and creates potentially hazardous new chemical compounds** in the process, some of which are linked to cancer, the United States Department of Agriculture recently approved the importation of fresh fruits and vegetables for the first time.

In the next few months, the EU will decide which foods to permit for irradiation throughout Europe. Currently, only one food category is approved - vegetable seasonings, herbs and spices. Depending on the outcome of the vote, **food irradiation will sweep through Europe** or be stopped in its tracks!

Because irradiation kills invasive species that are considered "barriers to trade," **it increases multinationals' power in global markets.** This allows multinationals to shift production to the South - where labor is cheap and environmental regulations are lax. Family farmers in the North won't be able to compete with overseas production and the factory farms that drive prices down. Farmers in the South won't be able to compete with cheap exports, so their land and labor will become susceptible to joint ventures that grow cash crops for export.

The EP will vote on a report (rapporteur: Hiltrud Breyer, reference COS/2002/2008) in mid December. Amendment 18 of the report will open the floodgates of food irradiation in Europe. **Say "NO" to Amendment 18!**

**CALL YOUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TELL THEM TO OPPOSE ALL IRRADIATION!**