POLICY BRIEF

Public health oversight and defence rights in Mersin

SRL Swiss | EN | 25.10.2026

Scope and principal conclusion

The report connects the 2010 import-control inquiry, the 2013 GMO paddy-rice investigation and subsequent proceedings against public officials. Its central conclusion is that scientific oversight, independent investigation and effective defence must be protected together. Importers' liability, officials' conduct and journalistic reporting are separate legal questions.

Findings from the case records

Multiple laboratories examined samples, including washed samples and sequencing of sample 22901 by Macrogen. Detection of specified DNA targets does not alone establish integration into the rice genome or a particular GMO event; sampling and delivery records remain essential.

Defence submissions and hearing records describe ministerial contacts concerning laboratory assessments and proceedings. Some contacts were acknowledged while specific allegations were denied. These records warrant independent examination; the parties' accounts and judicial findings must retain their different evidential status.

The report centres the GMO-related acquittals of officials and academics while separately examining Mehmet Baransu's convictions. Destruction of records, digital-file access and questioning witnesses raise distinct concerns; acquittal does not itself remedy detention, professional loss or reputational harm.

Priorities for action

1. Investigate alleged political interference and destruction of records independently. Preserve original files and disclose the appointment and case-allocation records needed to examine the allegation of a case-specific panel.

2. Give the defence usable access to institutional records, original digital material and hearing recordings, with effective witness questioning and continuity of legal assistance. Explain restrictions through the evidence and needs of each defendant.

3. Restore acquitted officials' rights and reputation; protect public-health journalism and sources. Assess family livelihood losses and children's educational needs without exposing identities. Review remedies by concrete results rather than acquittal alone.

Evidence and limits

A destruction record from the prosecution file is not among the annexes. Macrogen's findings have a defined technical scope. This summary preserves the source report's October 2026 scope and does not establish later case developments.

SRL Swiss, Mersin GMO Investigations, 20 October 2026, pp. 2–6, 13–19.

Source PDF

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