



**TESTS CONFIRM:  
NO TRACES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CONTENT IN C&A's ORGANIC COTTON!**

**Executive Board: C&A remains fully committed to Bio-Cotton.**

Duesseldorf, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010. C&A's European Executive Board (EEB) has announced that tests by the TLR International Laboratories (NL) have confirmed that garments sold under C&A's "Bio Cotton" label are free of GM-construct.

These findings cast doubt on recent claims in a German newspaper that textiles marketed as "organic" are instead grown from GM seeds. Indeed, several sources named in the original article have already challenged various parts of the report, which included claims of a large-scale, organised fraud. That aside, C&A's main concern has always been the integrity of its bio cotton supplies in ensuring that they are GM free. The test results received so far based on a representative range of certified bio products have found no evidence that GM seeds were used during cultivation.

"We remain fully committed to C&A's sustainability strategy", stated Andreas Seitz, a member and spokesperson of C&A's EEB. "We have made a pledge to our customers and we are determined to stand by it: C&A's Bio-Cotton collection is truly organic. C&A is convinced that its customers are increasingly attracted to purchasing great value-for-money merchandise produced in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner", Seitz underlined. As such, Bio Cotton at C&A provides a unique shopping alternative for customers and at the same time supports the sustainable development of the cotton growing industry.

C&A is Europe's number 1 Fashion-Value retailer for organic cotton, having sold 18 million pieces of certified Bio Cotton products in 2009. These garments are certified against either OE 100 or GOTS standards, neither of which allows the use of GM seeds, pesticides or chemical fertilisers. "We believe in supporting organic cotton initiatives, since they contribute to a better environment, being beneficial for the soil quality, the atmosphere, and water retention in the soil, whilst additionally helping to raise the standards of living and the health of the farming communities involved".



Seitz re-emphasised C&A's commitment to the continuous improvement of the certification process for organic cotton. "We are fully aware of our responsibility to ensure that we can stand behind the claims we make regarding our certified bio product. Consequently, we will work closely with certifying companies and partner organizations to do everything possible to further safeguard the integrity of organic cotton merchandise", Seitz said. Furthermore, C&A will also set up additional internal improvement processes to enhance the aspect of traceability, in order that we can demonstrate due diligence throughout the whole organic cotton value chain.