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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
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CIRCABC Link: https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/47075858-2b2d-4be4-b426-80fb29f081ac/library/c4505fc9-dab6-45f0-a10f-a79b4ca7cebb?p=1&n=10&sort=name_ASC

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Assessment of the 2021 post-market environmental monitoring report on the cultivation of genetically modified maize MON 810 in the EU – Presentation by EFSA and discussion

EFSA presented its assessment of the PMEM report on the cultivation of genetically modified maize MON 810 for the cultivation period 2021-2022.

One of the Member States cultivating GM maize MON 810 updated the Committee of the measures currently in place to ensure that the post-market environmental monitoring plan is properly implemented.

A.02 Update on Teosinte – Presentation by a Member State and discussion

One of the Member States where the maize-related weed teosinte has emerged presented its report on the situation in 2023 and informed the Committee about a planned research project (in cooperation with two other Member States) on hybridisation of teosinte with maize.

Another Member State, in which the presence of teosinte has also been detected, reported that there was no evolution in the presence of teosinte in its territory.

A.03 Enforcement of GMO presence in seeds – Presentation by the Commission and discussion

Following the request of several Member States for further convergence of Member States practices on seed controls for presence of genetically modified organisms, the Commission had circulated a questionnaire to gather information about current practices and Member States views. The Commission presented the results of the responses to the circulated questionnaire. Several suggestions for convergence were made (e.g. interpretation of results below the limit of detection and corresponding approaches to enforcement, harmonised analytical screening, communication of results), but each point was supported only by a few Member States. Member States were invited to inform the Commission in writing of their most important topics. Based on the outcome, the Commission will inform Member States of possible further steps.

A.04 New developments in biotechnology applied to microorganisms and animals – Presentation by EFSA on horizon scanning and state of play

EFSA presented the state of play of its upcoming opinions on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals and microorganisms, including the results of the respective horizon scanning exercises.

The Commission emphasised the importance of Member States contributing to the preparation of EFSA opinions through participation in the relevant EFSA network and the public consultations.

A.05 Deliberate release of genetically modified tobacco – Presentation by a Member State and discussion

One Member State requested to discuss the applicable rules of the GMO legislation to a specific notification for a release of GM tobacco, where the tobacco is not intended for placing on the market but for the production in a contained use facility of thaumatin – a sweetener – for export to a third country. Member States reported on past and current similar cases. The Commission shared its assessment of the different scopes of Part B (deliberate release for any other purpose than for placing on the market) and Part C (placing on the market) of Directive 2001/18.

A.06 Update on unauthorised releases

The Commission stressed the importance that Member States involved in unauthorised releases of GMOs swiftly investigate the cases and share the necessary information with the Commission. The Commission explained the possible use of the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation Network for structured communication tool for unauthorised releases / seed testing results, replacing the current use of CIRCABC. Member States were invited to share their views with a view to deciding whether this would be an appropriate way forward.