EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)6829672

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
16 September 2019

CIRCABC Link: ***https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/99cb74b0-d77c-433b-99cf-fe415bfc83c1***

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Assessment of genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547- 127, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA- GMO- NL- 2016- 135) - Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87708 × MON 89788 × A5547- 127. No questions were raised by Member States.

A.02 Assessment of genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × MIR162 × NK603 and subcombinations, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA- GMO- NL- 2016- 131) - Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × MIR162 × NK603 and subcombinations. No questions were raised by Member States.

A.03 Assessment of genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 87460 × MON 89034 × MIR162 × NK603 and subcombinations, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA- GMO- NL- 2016- 134) - Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 87460 × MON 89034 × MIR162 × NK603 and subcombinations. No questions were raised by Member States.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × 1507 × 5307 × GA21 and genetically modified maize combining two, three, four or five of the single events Bt11, MIR162, MIR604, 1507, 5307 and GA21 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × 1507 × 5307 × GA21 and genetically modified maize combining two, three, four or five of the single events Bt11, MIR162, MIR604, 1507, 5307 and GA21, was presented to the Committee and submitted for a vote.

Vote taken: No opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient

Written statement issued by Sweden:

"The authorization of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize is on the agenda on the meeting mentioned above. The authorization does not include cultivation. Maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × 1507 × 5307 × GA21 is tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium-based herbicides.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture and the National Food Agency make the same conclusion as stated by Efsa i.e. this product is safe for human and animal health as well as for the environment. Sweden therefore votes in favour of granting the product authorization according to the Commission proposal.

This does not preclude the Swedish vote on a possible future granting of authorization of cultivation of seeds that are tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium.

Glufosinate-ammonium has very serious properties and is classified as a substance toxic for reproduction in category 1B which means that it does not fulfil the approval criteria for active substances according to the Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

In our view, potential use and cultivation of genetically modified organisms in Sweden should not have a negative effect on biodiversity and, as far as possible, not lead to an increased use of pesticides."

As a consequence, the Chair informed the Committee that the draft Decision will be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

M.01 Analytical results for stacks.

Referring to the information provided in the Standing Committee of 11 June 2019, one Member State explained the difficulties in interpreting analytical findings of GM events in samples.

The Commission shared initial feedback received from the EURL GMFF (European Union Reference Laboratory for GMO Food and Feed): it is scientifically best practice to compare the mass fraction intervals for each event; in case intervals overlap, it can be assumed that GM events are present in equivalent amounts in the sample.

The Commission suggested that technical matters relating to the interpretation of analytical results for stacked events are first discussed between national control laboratories, and notably in the forthcoming meeting of the European Network of GM laboratories (ENGL) of 30 September – 2 October 2019.

M.02 Members States' comments to EFSA on GMO applications.

One Member State explained that in a recent GMO Network meeting, EFSA encouraged Member States to submit comments strictly limited to the risk assessment of the GMO application under consideration. This Member State, supported by another Member State, considers that, in the case of applications for stack products, it is useful, for sake of completeness, to provide again the comments made previously on the single event applications. The Commission will liaise with EFSA and report back to Member States in a future Standing Committee.