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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
17 May 2021

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Assessment of genetically modified soybean GMB151 for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA- GMO- NL- 2018-153) – 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 GMB151. No questions were raised by the 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 soybean DAS-81419-2, 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 soybean DAS-81419-2 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

Written statement issued by Sweden:

“The authorization of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soya bean is on the agenda on the meeting mentioned above. The authorization does not include cultivation. GM- soya bean DAS-81419-2 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.”

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.02 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 soybean DAS-81419-2 × DAS-44406-6, 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 soybean DAS-81419-2 × DAS-44406-6 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

Written statement issued by Sweden:

“The authorization of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soya bean is on the agenda on the meeting mentioned above. The authorization does not include cultivation. GM-soya bean DAS-81419-2 × DAS-44406-6 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.”

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.03 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 1507 × MIR162 × MON810 × NK603 and genetically modified maize combining two or three of the single events 1507, MIR162, MON810 and NK603, 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 1507 × MIR162 × MON810 × NK603 and its subcombinations was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

Written statement issued by Sweden:

”The authorization of placing on the market of products, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize is on the agenda on the meeting mentioned above.

The authorization does not include cultivation. GM- maize 1507 × MIR162 × MON810 × NK603 and genetically modified maize combining two or three of the individual modifications 1507, MIR162, MON810 and NK603 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.”

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt 11 (SYN-BTØ11) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The draft Decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt 11 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

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. GM-maize Bt 11 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.”

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1113 as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1.

The draft Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1113 as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products produced from genetically modified sugar beet H7-1 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decisions 2013/648/EU and 2013/650/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from certain genetically modified maize.

The draft Decision amending Decisions 2013/648/EU and 2013/650/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from certain genetically modified maize was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.