



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate B - Protecting the Natural Environment  
ENV.B – Acting Director

Brussels, 29. 07. 2009  
ENV.B3/YK/GM ARES (2009) 1889/4

## NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS

In its 2008 conclusions, the Council invited the Member States to collect and exchange information on socio-economic implication of the marketing of GMOs and invited the Commission to submit a report by June 2010. The possible consideration of socio-economic factors in the authorisation of GMOs for cultivation has also been raised by several Member States in the Environment and Agriculture Councils of the last months<sup>1</sup>.

Moreover, Directive 2001/18/EC<sup>2</sup> provides that the Commission should send to the European Parliament and the Council a specific report on the operation of the Directive including inter alia an assessment of the socioeconomic implications of deliberate releases and placing on the market of GMOs. In its 2004 report<sup>3</sup>, the Commission noted that there was not sufficient experience at the time to make such an assessment.

In order to respond to the Council invitation to gather information we suggest the attached questionnaire to be used. The issues raised in this questionnaire derive primarily from the Council Conclusions and the relevant legislation<sup>4</sup>. Given the wide variety of the topics, you may consider some of them as not relevant to the whole territory of the Member State, to some regions or to some of the GMO categories; in such cases it would be useful to explain why.

Where stakeholders are consulted at national level, we would appreciate if their responses would be incorporated in your submission in an aggregated fashion. The list of stakeholders consulted, as well as any other pertinent information, may indeed be attached to the questionnaire.

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<sup>1</sup> Environment Council of 2 March 2009, Agriculture Council of 23 March 2009 and Environment Council of 25 June 2009

<sup>2</sup> Article 31(7)(d)

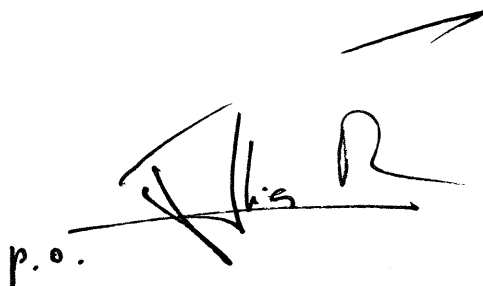
<sup>3</sup> COM(2004)575 final

<sup>4</sup> In these Conclusions, the Council points out that Regulation 1829/2003 mentions that "legitimate factors specific to the GMO assessed" can be taken into account in the risk management process.

You will find attached the list of all contact persons appointed by each Member State for contributing to this exercise.

We would be grateful if we could receive one completed version (preferably in English) of the questionnaire per Member State by 10 January 2010.

We thank you in advance for your constructive cooperation on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hamell', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature, the initials 'p.o.' are written.

Michael Hamell

Enclosed:

Annex 1: Questionnaire about the socio-economic implications of the placing on the market of GMOs for cultivation.

Annex 2: List of all contact persons appointed by each Member State.