



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2021)8935640

**Regulatory Committee under Directive 2001/18/EC
25 November 2021**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/b0c45d64-a94c-4082-916d-dac569ccaabb>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Electronic submission platform provided by the Commission: submission of summary notifications under Part B of the Directive 2001/18/EC - Presentation by the Commission and discussion.

The Commission explained the legal provisions and the needs that call for the development of this IT tool and presented the first version of the IT tool already developed, within the E-submission Food Chain Platform (ESFC). The Commission responded to Member States' questions, provided clarifications and took note of the Member States' suggestions.

Some Member States pointed out that they have national IT systems in place and expressed concerns about the coexistence of their national tools and the ESFC platform. The Commission offered to discuss this bilaterally and investigate the possibility to link each national system to ESFC.

Member States were invited to provide feedback, in writing, by 3 December and to test the system before it is finalised. Testing period was planned to start on 6 December.

A.02 EFSA scientific opinion on *in vivo* and *in vitro* random mutagenesis techniques in plants – Presentation by EFSA and discussion.

EFSA presented the opinion recently published (<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6611>), which concluded that the distinction between *in vivo* and *in vitro* random mutagenesis is not scientifically justified. The Commission confirmed that this conclusion is supporting the Commission's position not to make a distinction between *in vivo* and *in vitro* mutagenesis when implementing the GMO legislation and the legislation on plant reproductive materials.

France gave an update on the recent Conseil d'État decision on mutagenesis; this decision referred two new questions to the Court of Justice of the EU for further clarification on the mutagenesis exemption under the GMO legislation.

A.03 Teosinte: information from the Commission.

The Commission summarised the ongoing work of EFSA and the Commission on this topic and informed the Committee about its mandate to EFSA, to update the 2016 technical report on teosinte¹. A Member State explained how it addressed EFSA's recommendations on the monitoring of teosinte in MON 810 maize fields.

A.04 New Genomic Techniques: Member States' update on implementation of legislation and information from the Commission on policy initiative on plants obtained from targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis.

The Commission invited the Member States to share any available update on their experience in the implementation and enforcement of the GMO legislation, in particular as regards the challenges and possibilities to detect certain products of new genomic techniques.

One Member State shared an update on a number of projects focused on detection and identification of NGT products and state of the art of NGT databases.

The Commission updated the Committee on the ongoing activities in the European Union reference laboratory for GM Food & Feed and in the European Network for GM laboratories, which includes NGT Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMM) detection. The Commission reminded that the Working Programme 2021-2022 of Horizon Europe offers funding to address among other, detection and traceability issues.

The Commission provided the Member States with an update on the policy initiative on plants obtained from targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis, in particular preliminary information on the feedback to the inception impact assessment.

The Commission also presented information on the high-level conference of 29 November and next steps concerning the policy initiative. The Commission emphasised that the impact assessment will have to rely on robust evidence; to this end, contribution of all stakeholders, including Member States authorities, is essential.

One Member State invited to continue discussions in the future on epigenetic techniques, while another Member State asked to pursue work also on microorganisms.

¹ [Relevance of new scientific evidence on the occurrence of teosinte in maize fields in Spain and France for previous environmental risk assessment conclusions and risk management recommendations on the cultivation of maize events MON810, Bt11, 1507 and GA21 - 2016 - EFSA Supporting Publications - Wiley Online Library](#)