EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)9988617

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
22 November 2024

CIRCABC Link: *https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d0853cdf-2867-4a11-a1c8-1cead76a9d94?p=1&n=10&sort=name_ASC*

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Statement complementing the EFSA Scientific Opinion on application (EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126) for authorisation of food and feed containing, consisting of and produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87705 × MON 87708 × MON 89788 for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 – Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the statement complementing the scientific opinion published on 18 May 2020 on application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87705 × MON 87708 × MON 89788.

No Member State raised questions

A.02 Assessment of genetically modified maize DP51291 for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application GMFF-2021-0071) – 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 DP51291.

No Member State raised questions.

A.03 Scientific opinion on new developments in biotechnology applied to micro-organisms - Presentation by EFSA and discussion.

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on new developments in biotechnology applied to micro-organisms which was published on 22 July 2024 (EC mandate, M-2022-00146) and addressed questions from Member States.

A.04 Mandate for an EFSA opinion on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals (including synthetic biology and new genomic techniques) – Presentation by EFSA on the state of play.

EFSA informed the committee on the on-going work on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals and presented the first output (EC mandate M-2018-0205 on horizon scanning activities on new developments in biotechnology applied to animals).

EFSA reported that the draft opinion was planned for endorsement by the EFSA GMO Panel at the December's Plenary. The public consultation would be launched at the beginning of 2025. The EFSA opinion is foreseen for adoption in June or July 2025.

A.05 Sampling and Testing Protocol for Canadian Flaxseed Exported to the European Union – Information from the Commission.

The Commission informed the Committee of Canada's request to terminate the flaxseed testing protocol and presented the data submitted by Canada to substantiate the absence of non-compliances over several years. The Commission asked Member States for any initial views or further information necessary to assess the request.

No Member State expressed objections to the potential termination of the protocol. Several Member States indicated the need to evaluate the latest data received from Canada just prior to the start of the meeting.

The Commission invited Member States to provide any views or further questions to be submitted to Canada, as well as any relevant data on controls available to evaluate this request, by 6 December 2024.

A.06 Assessment of soy leghemoglobin produced from genetically modified *Komagataella phaffii*, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-162) – Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the placing on the market of soy leghemoglobin produced from genetically modified *Komagataella phaffii*. No Member State raised questions.

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 MON 95275, 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 MON 95275 was presented to the Committee.

No Member State raised questions.

Vote taken: No opinion.

Reasons for negative vote or abstention:

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

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee that the draft Decision will 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 maize DP910521, 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 DP910521 was presented to the Committee.

No Member State raised questions.

Vote taken: No opinion.

Reasons for negative vote or abstention:

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

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee that the draft Decision will be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

Declaration provided by Sweden:

"The authorisation of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified the maize DP910521 is on the agenda for this meeting. The authorisation does not include cultivation. The maize DP910521 are 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 authorisation according to the Commission proposal.

This does not preclude the Swedish vote on a possible future granting of authorisation 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."

AOB

Evaluation of EFSA's performance

The Commission informed the Committee about the procedure for the evaluation of EFSA's performance (2017-2024) and invited Member States competent authorities to participate in the targeted survey to be launched by the contractor and to express interest to participate in the interviews by 6 December 2024.

Certified reference materials (CRM)

One Member State raised concerns about the possible discontinuation by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of GM CRM production and supported continuation of production. Eight Member States supported this position.