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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*
19 April 2021

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Assessment of genetically modified maize 1507 x MIR162 x MON 810 x NK603 and subcombinations, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-127) – 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 1507 × MIR162 × MON 810 × NK603 and subcombinations. No questions were raised by the Member States.

A.02 Assessment of genetically modified maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 87411 x 59122 and subcombinations, for food and feed uses, under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-139) – 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 × 1507 × MON 87411 × 59122. No questions were raised by the Member States.

A.03 Assessment of genetically modified maize Bt11 for renewal authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-RX-016) – Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the renewal of the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11. No questions were raised by the Member States.

A.04 Assessment of genetically modified maize MON 88017 x MON 810 for renewal authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (application EFSA-GMO-RX-017) – Presentation by EFSA.

EFSA presented the opinion on the application for the renewal of the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 88017 × MON 810. No questions were raised by the Member States.

A.05 Emergency measure on rice from China (Decision 2011/884/EU): overview of the results of Member States' controls – Presentation by the Commission.

The Commission presented the overview of the Member States' control results for 2020. In 2020, the cases of non-compliance slightly decreased compared to 2019. The Commission is exploring the possibility of extracting the relevant control results from TRACES-NT. This possibility will be further discussed in one of the forthcoming meetings of the Committee.

A.06 Risk assessment of GMO not intended for commercialisation – Discussion.

The Commission recalled that this discussion was a follow-up to the discussion proposed by a Member State at the Committee meeting on 7 October 2020 (point M.02) on a specific GM oilseed rape not intended for commercialisation and for which the risk assessment was inconclusive due to the biology of the GMO. One Member State expressed the view that, in the case of products not made for commercialisation but only intended to be used in a stack, the risk assessment of the single and the stack should be handled in one application. Some Member States shared this view. One Member State suggested that national risk assessment bodies and EFSA could discuss the risk assessment of those kind of products before further discussion is done at risk management level. The Commission recalled that the GMO legislation requires that a risk assessment is performed for all the single events composing a stack event. However, it agreed that further discussion would be useful on how to conduct that assessment in cases such as this one. It proposed to further discuss the matter at a future Committee meeting.

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 oilseed rapes Ms8 × Rf3 × GT73, Ms8 × GT73 and Rf3 × GT73, 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 oilseed rapes Ms8 × Rf3 × GT73, Ms8 × GT73 and Rf3 × GT73 was presented to the Committee.

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

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

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

Written statement issued by The Netherlands:

"Monitoring (general surveillance) on unexpected effects of adventitious populations of GM oilseed rape along inland transport routes (such as railway tracks), where regular application of the herbicide to which the GM oilseed rape is tolerant takes place, is an important issue for the Netherlands. Since the monitoring plan has not

been amended to take this into consideration, the Netherlands urge the European Commission to shape this monitoring of oilseed rape in Europe by other means. Monitoring should be proportional to the risks and the amount of inland transport actually taking place. The Netherlands prefers simple measures, using few resources but resulting in adequate information."

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-rape-seed Ms8 × Rf3 × GT73, Ms8 × GT73 and Rf3 × GT73 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 will be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.02 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 feed and products other than food and feed containing and consisting of genetically modified oilseed rape GT73 (MON-ØØØ73-7) 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 feed containing or consisting of genetically modified oilseed rape GT73 was presented to the Committee.

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

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

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

Written statement issued by The Netherlands:

"Monitoring (general surveillance) on unexpected effects of adventitious populations of GM oilseed rape along inland transport routes (such as railway tracks), where regular application of the herbicide to which the GM oilseed rape is tolerant takes place, is an important issue for the Netherlands. Since the monitoring plan has not been amended to take this into consideration, the Netherlands urge the European Commission to shape this monitoring of oilseed rape in Europe by other means. Monitoring should be proportional to the risks and the amount of inland transport actually taking place. The Netherlands prefers simple measures, using few resources but resulting in adequate information."

Written statement issued by Austria:

"Austria is of the opinion that the risk assessment which has been carried out is affected by uncertainties unsuitable to give a scientific proof for the safety of this product and, therefore, objects renewal of the placing on the market authorisation of genetically modified oilseed rape GT73 for the following reason:

a. The risk assessment of GT73 is performed only under the assumption that the sequence of the event to renew is identical to the sequence of the originally assessed event and is relying more or less on data generated in 1994 and 2003 (i.e. on data of 26 and 17 years of age)."

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

M.01 Update on the Commission's study on new genomic techniques.

One Member State asked about the status of the Commission's study on new genomic techniques and inquired about how the study will be made available to the Member States. The Commission informed the Committee that the study was being finalised and was to be submitted to the Council and published by the end of April.