



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
JOINT MEETING
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk*
and
REGULATORY COMMITTEE under DIRECTIVE 2001/18/EC
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 09 DECEMBER 2016**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/339c53df-217a-4fa1-8d9e-c04851c355ad>

- C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market for cultivation of genetically modified maize MON 810 (MON-ØØ81Ø-6) seeds.**

- C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the placing on the market for cultivation of genetically modified maize 1507 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1) seeds.**

- C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the placing on the market for cultivation of genetically modified maize Bt11 (SYN-BTØ11-1) seeds.**

Common for points C.01, C.02 and C.03

The Commission presented for discussion updated draft proposals which took into account the Member States' comments on the previous drafts and included draft provisions on teosinte based on the September 2016 EFSA technical report.

The discussion covered practically all elements in the proposals, with Member States making comments on a number points of the texts, concerning inter alia the transitional measures regarding MON810, the definition of protected habitats, and the definition of field margins. The Commission provided clarifications and indicated that it will further examine those comments.

There was considerable discussion on two specific points for which different views were presented: The proposed risk management measures concerning teosinte and the

isolation distances from protected habitats in which non-target organisms (Lepidoptera species) of conservation concern can be present.

Regarding teosinte, some Member States expressed the view that some of the obligations envisaged lacked legal certainty and should be clarified. Some Member States also expressed concerns on the proportionality of those measures, expressing the view that they would be too strict in the light of the advice of EFSA. Invited to comment, EFSA indicated in particular that the eradication and control measures evoked in its technical report did not necessarily imply the adoption of measures concerning the presence of teosinte outside GM maize fields.

Regarding isolation distances, a few Member States reiterated their position in favour of isolation distances of 20 metres for maize MON 810 and maize Bt11 and 30 metres for maize 1507, based on an EFSA advice dating from 2011. The Commission explained the rationale of setting isolation distances of 5 metres for maize MON 810 and maize Bt11, 20 metres for maize 1507 on the basis of the latest EFSA opinion of 2015 and the parameters provided therein. The Commission insisted that the distances should be scientifically based, coherent, and proportionate and underlined that possible alternative isolation distances should be based on the parameters set out in the EFSA opinion of 2015, which is the most up-to-date scientific advice in that respect. The Commission gave examples of alternative isolation distances that could be derived for each of the parameters provided by EFSA.

One Member State disagreed with the model used by EFSA to produce the 2015 opinion and considered that it should not be used as a basis for setting those distances. Another Member State expressed the view that uncertainties in the model used by EFSA should be taken into account when deciding on those distances. Some Member States opposed the Commission's proposed isolation distances whereas others expressed their support for the isolation distances proposed by the Commission. A number of Member States among those opposing the Commission proposed isolation distances stated that they would not change their voting position (against) even if the distances were increased. Similarly, one Member State among those supporting the Commission's proposed isolation distances, indicated that it would not vote in favour if the isolation distances were increased.

In concluding the discussions, the Commission explained that the drafts will be further revised on the basis of the discussions held and of possible additional comments that Member States may submit, and will be presented for vote early 2017.

M.01 State of play of coexistence measures according to Article 1 of Directive (EU) 2015/412.

The Commission invited Member States which have not opted out from the cultivation of GMOs and which cultivate GMOs (therefore concerned by Article 26a(1a) of Directive 2001/18/EC) to inform the other Member States and the Commission, at one of the next meetings, on the state of play of the implementation of their draft measures regarding coexistence.

One Member State stated that, in their view, cross border contamination can only take place if conventional maize is also cultivated on the border side adjacent to the GM fields . The Member State stated that in their view, coexistence is always the distance between conventional maize fields and GM maize fields and that it would be arbitrary to consider the entire country's border for coexistence measures. The Commission clarified that based on the Article of the Directive, the measures concern those Member States which have not opted-out from the cultivation of GMOs and confirmed that it is also logical that coexistence applies between conventional and GM maize fields.

M.02 Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) and New Breeding Techniques.

At a request of a Member State the Commission explained that the mandate for the work of SAM on NBTs has been finalised and is available under the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/pdf/meetings/hlg_sam_052016_scoping_paper_agri_biotechnology.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

The Commission informed Member States about the role and the tasks of SAM regarding the topic of NBTs. Two meetings have already taken place involving the topic of NBTs on 25 July and 28 September 2016. The minutes of those meetings can be found at the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm?pg=meetings>

M.03 Import of genetically modified goats for research purposes.

At the request of a Member State to share information about possible similar cases of imports of GM animals, the Commission invited the Member States to share information on whether they had similar requests and how they managed those.