



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 14 DECEMBER 2015**

(Section Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk)

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/aac56de4-1f47-4ec7-9d70-49b9d601bd8c>

A.01 Scientific opinion on application for the placing on the market of herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant genetically modified maize Bt11 x GA21 x MIR162 x MIR604 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 – Presentation by EFSA.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the opinion on the herbicide tolerant, genetically modified maize Bt11 x GA21 x MIR162 x MIR604 for food and feed uses, import and processing which was published in June 2015 and addressed questions raised by Member States during the consultation period. The presentation was followed by questions from Member States to EFSA. Upon a question, EFSA underlined that no safety concern was identified with the higher stack or the sub combinations covered by the application.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the withdrawal from the market of existing products derived from MON 863 (MON-ØØ863-5) and repealing Commission Decisions 2010/139/EU, 2010/140/EU, 2010/141/EU authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MON863xMON810xNK603 (MON-ØØ863-5xMON-ØØ810-6xMON-ØØ603-6), MON863xMON810 (MON-ØØ863-5xMON-ØØ810-6) and MON863xNK603 (MON-ØØ863-5xMON-ØØ603-6) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission presented the draft decision on the withdrawal from the market of existing products derived from MON 863 and repealing Commission Decisions 2010/139/EU, 2010/140/EU, 2010/141/EU authorising MON863xMON810xNK603, MON863xMON810 and MON863xNK603. Several Member States expressed the view that the draft decision should include transitional measures to allow the phase out of the products. The Commission explained that MON863 maize and its stacks have not been commercially cultivated since 2011 in non-EU countries and the commercial phase out has been completed. The Commission has also highlighted that

no transitional measures are possible as no renewal had been submitted for food, feed and other products containing or consisting of MON863 maize and food produced from MON863 maize. Therefore, these products cannot be placed on the EU market after 12 January 2016.

Written Statement by the Netherlands:

A reasonable transition period should be in place, especially since there is no technical zero solution for food at the moment.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

M.01 EFSA's scientific advice on a recent publication on the formaldehyde.

EFSA presented its scientific advice on a recent publication on the formaldehyde and explained the reasoning for its conclusions. EFSA considers that its previous risk assessment conclusions on the already assessed GMOs remain valid.

M.02 Detection of screening elements in basmati rice from India/Pakistan.

A Member State referred to cases where screening elements (such as Cry targets), indicating the possible presence of unauthorised GMOs, are detected in basmati rice from India or Pakistan. Other Member States confirmed to have experienced similar situations. The Commission clarified that, in general terms and outside the scope of the Implementing Decision 2011/884/EU on emergency measures regarding unauthorised GM rice in rice products originating from China, the sole screening tests are not sufficient to assess the compliance of a lot. However further investigations may be undertaken and the EU-RL GMFF/ENGL may provide relevant support in this regard.

M.03 FAO Symposium on Agricultural Biotechnologies.

Upon a request to the Commission for coordination of this event, the Commission informed Member States that FAO symposium on biotechnologies on 15-17 February will not focus on GMOs, but on agricultural biotechnologies in general, which is a wide range of technologies used in food and agriculture. Therefore, the right forum for coordination between the Commission and the Member States would be the Council AGRI-FAO Working Party.