



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 19 OCTOBER 2015
(Section Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/759f0c9a-751c-4eb9-a880-dd3997ae7fd9>

A.01 Scientific opinion on application for the placing on the market of herbicide-tolerant genetically modified maize 5307 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 inconclusive opinion on the herbicide-tolerant, genetically modified maize 5307 for food and feed uses, import and processing which was published in May 2015 and addressed questions raised by Member States during the consultation period. The presentation was followed by questions from Member States to EFSA. Additional data are awaited by the applicant and when available, these data will be assessed by EFSA. Member States will also be given access.

A.02 Guidance for renewal applications of genetically modified food and feed authorized under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 - Presentation by EFSA.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the Guidance for renewal applications of genetically modified food and feed authorized under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, published in July 2015. The presentation was followed by questions from Member States who reiterated their comments made during the public consultation and the EFSA Scientific Network meeting. EFSA addressed all the comments.

A.03 Guidance on the agronomic and phenotypic characterization of genetically modified plants - Presentation by EFSA.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) presented the Guidance on the agronomic and phenotypic characterization of genetically modified plants, published in July 2015. Certain Member States reiterated their comments, made during public consultation and the EFSA Scientific Network meeting and which have not been

taken into account by EFSA. EFSA reiterated its explanations, given at the technical report and at the technical 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 genetically modified maize NK 603 x T25 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of genetically modified maize NK 603 x T25 was presented to the Committee for a vote.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Lack of 90-day toxicity study
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient
- Interactions between single events not sufficiently assessed
- General surveillance plan not satisfactory
- Precautionary principle
- The Regulation on GM food and feed is not considered as the right legal basis to authorise products other than food and feed containing and consisting of GMOs

Declaration of Sweden

Marketing approval for the genetically modified maize NK603 x T2 5 for use in food and feed and for import and processing

The meeting discussed marketing approval for the genetically modified maize NK603 x T25 for use in food and feed and for import and processing of material that contains or consists of that maize. The application for marketing approval does not cover cultivation. The genetic modification of maize NK603 x T25 confers tolerance to the weedkillers glyphosate and glufosinate ammonium.

The Board of Agriculture and the National Food Agency share EFSA's view that the product is safe for human and animal health and for the environment. Sweden will therefore vote in favour of the European Commission's proposed decision.

This position does not affect Sweden's stance on the future decision on the cultivation of GMO-crops which tolerate the herbicide glufosinate-ammonium.

That substance has very dangerous properties and is classified as reprotoxic in category IB, which means that it does not meet the requirements for authorisation under the EU's new Regulation No 1107/2009 on plant protection products. Sweden is of the opinion that any potential use and cultivation of genetically modified organisms in Sweden must not have negative repercussions for biodiversity and that any increased use of pesticides is to be avoided as far as possible.

Vote taken: No opinion.

M.01 RASFF notification on unauthorised Bt63 rice in rice flour from Pakistan.

With regard to the recent RASFF notification 2015.1171 on unauthorised Bt63 rice in organic rice flour from Pakistan, the Member States involved provided updated information on the controls and the follow-up measures adopted. The Commission recommended the Member States to be prompt in their official controls and in sharing the relevant information through the RASFF.

M.02 Directive 2015/412/EU of the Council and the European Parliament amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory – State of play.

The Commission gave an update on the state of play of the Cultivation Directive with regard to the Member States' demands submitted by 3 October 2015 under the transitional measures, informed Member States that no measures to opt-out based on compelling grounds have been submitted, and informed Member States of the outcomes so far available.

M.03 Status of EURL GMFF.

A number of Member States reported that their National Reference Laboratories had been informed, at the last European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL) plenary meeting, about the decision of the Joint Research Centre to move the EURL GMFF from IHCP in Ispra (Italy) to IRMM in Geel (Belgium). Member States raised several concerns on the potential negative impacts deriving from this decision, in particular on the functioning of the ENGL which has been working very effectively for around fifteen years and whose activities and role should not be reduced. The Commission clarified that the ENGL has a well-defined role in the GMO legislation and there is no intention to reduce it.

M.04 FVO audit in China, November 2015.

The Commission provided information on the forthcoming FVO audit in China from 18 to 26 November 2015 on the controls systems for GMOs in respect of food and feed intended for export to the European Union.