EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
23 April 2018

CIRCABC Link: *https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/20a54019-7662-47d8-9bbb-38c1075b1aad*

SUMMARY REPORT

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 1507 × 59122 × MON 810 × NK603, and genetically modified maize combining two or three of the single events 1507, 59122, MON 810 and NK603 and repealing Decisions 2009/815/EC, 2010/428/EU and 2010/432/EU.

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize 1507 × 59122 × MON 810 × NK603, and genetically modified maize combining two or three of the single events 1507, 59122, MON 810 and NK603 was presented to the Committee and submitted for a vote.

Vote taken: No opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient

Written statement issued by Sweden

"The authorization of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize 1507x59122xMON810xNK603 is on the agenda for this meeting. The authorization does not include cultivation. Maize 1507x59122xMON810xNK603 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."

As a consequence, 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 renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 (MON-ØØØ21-9) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The draft Decision renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize GA21 was presented to the Committee and submitted for a vote.

One Member State asked EFSA and the Commission to clearly communicate to applicants where to find previously submitted studies that are referred to in a renewal application. Those studies should be easily traceable. The Commission took note of this comment.

Vote taken: No opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient

As a consequence, the Chair informed the Committee that the draft Decision will be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

M.01 VITAC EEIG application for vitamin B2 as feed additive.

A representative of the Commission updated Member States about the VITAC EEIG application for the re-evaluation of vitamin B2 (produced by a genetically modified strain of *Bacillus subtilis*) as feed additive, submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

EFSA adopted in March 2018 a new opinion concluding that the presence in the additive's reference samples of viable cells and/or DNA of the GM production strain harbouring resistance markers to antimicrobials of human and veterinary importance, poses a risk for target species, consumers, users and the environment. Therefore, the conditions for the authorisation are not met and a Commission Implementing Regulation denying the authorisation for this specific vitamin B2 is under preparation and will be discussed at the Animal Nutrition section meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

M.02 International aspects.

In view of international events taking place in 2018 (including OECD working group meetings at the end of June), Member States agreed to provide feedback by **15 May 2018** to sante-consult-e3@ec.europa.eu in case they consider that very specific expert discussions were needed beforehand. The Commission also mentioned the upcoming meeting with Canada and informed the Committee that the minutes would be published. The Commission invited Member States to share relevant discussions with third countries in the Committee.