



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 27 MARCH 2017  
(Section Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk)**

*CIRCABC Link:* <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8440f2ea-e2ad-4ce2-b520-d2f3b03f8c22>

**A.01 Scientific Opinion on an application for placing on the market of genetically modified insect-resistant soybean DAS-81419-2 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 - Presentation by EFSA.**

EFSA presented the opinion on application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified herbicide-tolerant soybean DAS-81419-2 under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. The presentation also addressed comments made by Member States during the three months consultation period.

**A.02 Scientific Opinion on an application for placing on the market of genetically modified herbicide tolerant soybean DAS-68416-4 for food and feed uses, import and processing under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 - Presentation by EFSA.**

EFSA presented the opinion on application for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified herbicide-tolerant soybean DAS-68416-4 under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. The presentation also addressed comments made by Member States during the three months consultation period.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton GHB119 (BCS-GHØØ5-8) pursuant to Regulation (EC) 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 cotton GHB119 was presented to the Committee and submitted for vote.

*Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:*

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Disagreement with Article 2(c) of the decision
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient
- Precautionary principle

***Written statement by Sweden:***

*The authorisation of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton GHB119 (BCS-GH005-8) is on the agenda for this meeting. The authorisation does not include cultivation. Cotton GHB119 (BCS-GH005-8) 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 authorisation according to the Commission proposal.*

*This does not preclude the Swedish vote on a possible future granting of authorisation of cultivation of seeds that are tolerant to glufosinate-ammonium.*

*Glufosinate-ammonium 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.*

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

**Vote taken:** no opinion

**B.02 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 DAS-40278-9, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed.**

The draft Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically maize DAS-40278-9 was presented to the Committee and submitted for a vote.

The Commission tabled a draft Decision containing a change in Article 1 in order to rectify an editorial mistake in the draft Decision that had been previously circulated, without any impact on the meaning of that Article. The Committee made no objections to this change.

*Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:*

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons

- Disagreement with Article 2(c) of the decision
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient
- Precautionary principle
- Lack of long-term feeding studies

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

**Vote taken:** no opinion

**M.01 Request from a Member State: Intra community trade of GM-free labelled products.**

One Member State indicated that it observed that the imports of GM-free labelled products from other Member States have become more significant since the GM-Free labelling study was performed in 2013.

The Commission recalled that the EU legislation does not forbid the use of "GM-free" labels. Even though the conditions for the use of GM-free labelling are not harmonized at EU level, the EU food labelling legislation provides that food labelling must not be misleading. In this context, the control authorities of Member States retain a margin of appreciation on whether the labelling of specific foods should be considered as misleading. The Commission further explained that in the absence of new concrete data, the conclusions of the GM-Free labelling study remain valid.

**M.02 Update of CIRCABC list.**

The Commission informed that it is awaiting the updated list of its experts who should have access to CIRCABC from one Member State. Once this list is received the Commission will finalize the list and distribute it.