

Annual report on the implementation and the  
results of the monitoring activities for 281-24-236  
x 3006-210-23 and 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x  
MON 88913 cotton authorised by Commission  
implementing decision (EU) 2011/891 and  
Commission implementing decision (EU)  
2017/1211  
December 2020

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## 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1.1 Crop/trait(s)

Cotton / insect protection and herbicide tolerance traits

- 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 cotton– also referred to as WideStrike® cotton in the commercial context
- 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913 cotton– also referred to as WideStrike®Flex cotton<sup>1</sup> in the commercial context

281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 and 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913 cotton are hereafter referred to as 'these GM cotton'

### 1.2 Decision authorisation number under Directive 2001/18/EC and number and date of consent under Directive 2001/18/EC

Not applicable

### 1.3 Decision authorisation number and date under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003

- WideStrike® cotton:

Commission implementing decision (EU) 2011/891<sup>1</sup> of 22 December 2011 (EC, 2011)

- WideStrike®Flex cotton:

Commission implementing decision (EU) 2017/1211<sup>2</sup> of 4 July 2017 (EC, 2017)

amended by Commission implementing decision (EU) 2019/239 of 6 February 2019 as regards the representative or the authorisation holder (EC, 2019)

### 1.4 Unique identifier

- WideStrike® cotton: DAS-24236-5×DAS-21Ø23-5

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<sup>1</sup> Article 4 (1) and (2) of Decision 2011/891/EU<sup>2</sup> require the implementation and annual reporting on the results of the monitoring plan in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC, submitted as part of the application under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. The monitoring plan for 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 cotton is publicly available on the EU Register for Food and Feed:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm\\_register/100914-281-24-2363006-210-23-monitoring%20plan.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/100914-281-24-2363006-210-23-monitoring%20plan.pdf)

Article 4 (1) and (2) of Decision (EU) 2017/1211 require the implementation and annual reporting on the results of the monitoring plan in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC, submitted as part of the application under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003. The monitoring plan for 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913 cotton is publicly available on the EU Register for Food and Feed:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm\\_register/Monitoring%20plan%20cotton%20281-24-236x3006-210-23xMON88913.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/Monitoring%20plan%20cotton%20281-24-236x3006-210-23xMON88913.pdf)

- WideStrike®Flex cotton: DAS-24236-5×DAS-21Ø23-5×MON88913-8

**1.5 Reporting period from**

July 2019 - June 2020<sup>3</sup>

**1.6 Other monitoring reports have been submitted in respect of cultivation**

Yes ☐ No ☒

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<sup>3</sup> Submission dates and reporting periods of all the Dow AgroSciences monitoring reports are aligned with those of the rest of the plant biotechnology industry as of end of December 2008.

## 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Genetically modified (GM) 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 and 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913 cotton have been developed by Dow AgroSciences LLC<sup>4</sup>. After the assessment made by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (EFSA, 2010a), 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 cotton received full European Union (EU) approval for import and use as or in food, feed and processing in December 2011 in accordance with:

**Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2011/891/EU** of 22 December 2011 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed.

After the assessment made by EFSA (EFSA, 2010a), 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913 cotton received full European Union (EU) approval for import and use as or in food, feed and processing in July 2017 in accordance with:

**Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1211** of 4 July 2017 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x MON 88913, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed.

Dow AgroSciences is the authorisation holder for the approval for placing on the market of these GM cotton for import, food and feed. The purpose of this report is to provide information on the implementation and results of monitoring activities carried out by the authorisation holder in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC (EC, 2001), Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (EC, 2003a), Decision 2009/770/EC (EC, 2009) and as required under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/891 (EC, 2011) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1211.

The monitoring requirements outlined in Decision 2011/891/EU and Decision 2017/1211 (EC, 2017) consist primarily of the implementation and reporting on the results of the monitoring plan that was prepared and submitted by the authorisation holder in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2001/18/EC (EC, 2001). No additional monitoring requirements apply for the use of these GM cotton as or in food. Monitoring applies for the duration of the authorisation, *i.e.* ten years.

Monitoring activities for these GM cotton, in particular general surveillance, were carried out in accordance with the monitoring plan and in line with the conditions laid out in the Decision. The results of the monitoring confirm **no adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment have arisen from the import of these GM cotton into the EU for this annual reporting period.**

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<sup>4</sup> member of Corteva Agriscience group of companies

### 3 USES OF GMOs OTHER THAN CULTIVATION

#### 3.1 Commodity imports into the Community

##### 3.1.1 Commodity crop (GM and non-GM) imports into the Community by country of origin

Country of origin <sup>1</sup>	Quantity (tonnes) 2019-2020 <sup>3</sup>	Estimated data of potential GM cotton share in imports (where not possible approximate share of cultivation in the country of origin) <sup>4</sup>
Japan	634	NA
Republic of Korea	237	NA
India	38	NA
Other countries	4.2	NA
<b>Total from countries cultivating these GM cotton (GM and non-GM cotton)</b>	-	
<b>Total from all countries (GM and non-GM cotton)</b>	<b>913,6</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Main countries exporting cotton to the EU, which combined make up > 99% of total cotton imports into the EU. The countries representing collectively less than 1% of the total imports to the EU are indicated as "Other countries". The full list of countries exporting cotton to the EU, as collected by EuropaBio (source EUROSTAT 2020), is provided in Annex 1.

<sup>3</sup> Quantity in tonnes of commodity crop (GM and non-GM cotton) imported during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> July 2019-30 June 2020). Source: EUROSTAT 2020 (extracted August 2020) collected by EuropaBio (see Annex 1).

<sup>4</sup> The authorisation holder is not an operator directly involved in the import of cotton oilseeds into the EU for food/feed and processing. Therefore, it is not in a position to report directly on globally traded volumes of these GM cotton oilseed. However, in order to provide an estimate of the amount of these GM cotton that could possibly be imported into the EU, the approximate share of cultivation in the country of origin is provided, expressed as "NA" (not applicable, these GM cotton were not cultivated in the country), "0-10%", "10-20%", "20-40%", "40-60%", "60-80%", or "80-100%". It must be kept in mind that these figures are estimates only, and that the potential amount of these GM cotton that will be exported to the EU will only represent a portion of the cultivated amounts.

### 3.1.2 Commodity crop (GM and non-GM) imports into the Community by country of destination

Destination <sup>1</sup>	Quantity (tonnes) 2019-2020 <sup>2</sup>
Austria	-
Belgium	4
Bulgaria	-
Croatia	-
Cyprus	-
Czech Republic	-
Denmark	-
Estonia	-
Finland	-
France	0,2
Germany	-
Greece	871,2
Hungary	-
Ireland	-
Italy	38
Latvia	-
Lithuania	-
Luxembourg	-
Malta	-
Netherlands	-
Poland	-
Portugal	-
Romania	-
Slovakia	-
Slovenia	-
Spain	-
Sweden	-
United Kingdom	0.2
<b>EU Total</b>	<b>913,6</b>

<sup>1</sup> EU Member States into which the commodity crop (GM and non-GM cotton) is imported.

<sup>2</sup> Quantity in tonnes of commodity crop (GM and non-GM cotton) imported during the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> July 2019-30 June 2020). Source: EUROSTAT 2020 (extracted August 2020), collected by EuropaBio (see details Annex 1).

### **3.1.3 Analysis of data provided in tables 3.1.1 and 3.1.2**

The cotton oilseed (GM and non-GM) import data from suppliers to the EU from outside the EU-28 (extra-EU) is presented in section 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, and is based on EUROSTAT data collected by the European Association of Bioindustries (EuropaBio) for the reporting period from July 2019 to June 2020. During this period, total extra-EU cotton imports represented approximately 913,6 tonnes (Section 3.1.1). Extra-EU cotton imports vary from year to year depending on several factors (e.g. annual EU cotton harvest yields, the international currencies exchange rates, cotton oilseed price, transportation costs).

The largest suppliers of extra-EU cotton to the EU during the July 2019 - June 2020 period were Japan and Republic of Korea. Together, they accounted for approximately 95.3 % of total extra-EU cotton imports into the EU during the reporting period. Japan, by itself, accounted for approximately 69 %, followed by Republic of Korea and India which accounted for approximately 26 % and 4 %, respectively.

Section 3.1.2 summarises the total cotton imports from outside the EU by destination. During the July 2019 - June 2020 period, Greece, with a share of approximately 95 %, was the main importer of extra-EU cotton in the EU. Italy was responsible for approximately 4% of import of extra-EU cotton during the reporting period.

Bulk shipments of cotton entering the EU are typically processed into compound animal feed, whereby the processed feed is unlikely to contain whole cotton oilseeds. The handling of the shipments is the same across Europe; upon arrival, shipments being unloaded into silos at the port of the importing Member State and transferred from there to feed processing plants adjacent to the port.

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 regarding the general principles and requirements of food law and food safety procedures (EC,2002), Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs (EC, 2004), and Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 regarding feed hygiene (EC, 2003) contain operational rules and standards applicable to the handling of cotton imports. In accordance with these Regulations, the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) apply.

## **3.2 General surveillance**

### **3.2.1 Description of General Surveillance**

The current approach used for general surveillance is based upon a consensus between all consent/authorisation holders within EuropaBio and has been endorsed by the operators involved in the trade of viable cotton commodity (listed in Section 3.2.2).

Dow AgroSciences is not involved in commodity trade with these GM cotton. The monitoring methodology is, therefore, predominantly based on collaboration with third parties, such as operators involved in the import, handling and processing of viable GM cotton. These operators are exposed to the imported viable GM cotton and therefore are the best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects in the framework of their routine surveillance of the commodities they handle and use. The routine surveillance is based on the HACCP principles as reflected on the



website of the trade associations representing the operators involved in the post-market environmental monitoring (see below).

Since traders may co-mingle these GM cotton with other commercial cotton, including these authorised GM cotton, the authorisation holder works together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry within EuropaBio and trade associations representing the relevant operators in order to implement a harmonised monitoring methodology.

The different parties agreed on a general framework for monitoring of GMOs, including these GM cotton, as follows:

⇒ The authorisation holders represented by EuropaBio shall:

- Agree with the operators before adding or amending activities that fall under their responsibility in accordance with the proposed post-market environmental monitoring plan.
- Inform operators concerning the authorisation, safety and general characteristics of these GM cotton and of the conditions as to general surveillance.
- Set up and maintain a website dedicated to operators including detailed information on these GM cotton. The website, hosted on the EuropaBio website under <http://www.europabio.org/information-operators-product-information>, contains the following information:
  - An introduction to the purpose of the website
  - A table giving an overview of all currently approved GM plant products subject to general surveillance
  - A profile for every approved GM plant product providing documentation on characteristics and safety, positive EFSA opinion(s) and Commission Decision(s) authorising the GM plant product in the EU
  - A contact point at EuropaBio for information exchange on any of the GM plant products

The website will be regularly updated in order to further facilitate and ensure a transparent process for general surveillance and easy access to relevant information for operators.

- Contact the selected networks of operators annually reminding them of their agreement to report on any unanticipated adverse effects (or absence thereof).

⇒ The selected networks of operators (European trade associations) shall:

- Inform and remind their member organisations and companies on an annual basis
  - to monitor for potential unanticipated adverse effects
  - that, in the framework of their management or safety standards (ISO, HACCP, ...), procedures must be in place and implemented to limit losses and spillage of viable GMOs and to routinely eradicate adventitious populations on their premises
  - to inform and remind their own member companies of this requirement
  - to report back any adverse effect reported to them to the European trade associations
- Report to the authorisation holders directly or via EuropaBio

- at least annually, regardless of whether an adverse effect was observed or not
- immediately any adverse effects reported to them

Consequently, the European trade associations, COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL, shall notify EuropaBio of the results of the general surveillance on an annual basis. EuropaBio shall forward this report to the respective authorisation holder for inclusion in their annual report to the European Commission.

The general surveillance information reported to and collected by the authorisation holder from the European trade associations or other sources shall be analysed for its relevance. Where information indicates the possibility of an unanticipated adverse effect, the authorisation holder will immediately investigate to determine and confirm whether a significant correlation between the effect and these GM cotton can be established. If the investigation establishes that these GM cotton was present when the adverse effect was identified, and confirms that these GM cotton is the cause of the adverse effect, the authorisation holder shall immediately inform the European Commission. The authorisation holder, in collaboration with the European Commission and based on a scientific evaluation of the potential consequences of the observed adverse effect, shall define and implement management measures to protect human and animal health or the environment, as necessary. It is important that the remedial action is proportionate to the significance of the observed effect.

As described in the bullet points above, the authorisation holder shall submit an annual monitoring report, including results of the general surveillance, in accordance with the conditions of the authorisation. The report shall contain information on any unanticipated adverse effects, if any, that have arisen from handling and use of viable these GM cotton.

The report shall include a scientific evaluation of the confirmed adverse effect, a conclusion of the safety of these GM cotton and, as appropriate, the measures that were taken to ensure the safety of human and animal health or the environment.

### **3.2.2 Details of industry, environmental, food and/or feed related surveillance networks used during General Surveillance**

The authorisation holder, together with other members of the plant biotechnology industry and EuropaBio, implements general surveillance of viable GM cotton, including these GM cotton, with the help of the selected networks described below, according to the methodology outlined in the authorisation holder's general surveillance plan and as detailed in Section 3.2.1. The following networks are currently involved:

#### *⇒ Importers / Traders*

COCERAL is the European association of trade in cereals, rice, feedstuffs, oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agro-supply. It represents the interests of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above mentioned agricultural products. The main importers of cereals and feedstuffs into the EU are members of COCERAL.

Also see: <http://www.coceral.com/>

⇒ *Silo Operators*

UNISTOCK is the European association representing professional storekeepers for agribulk commodities in the EU. UNISTOCK full and extraordinary members are present in twelve countries and UNISTOCK is itself a full member of COCERAL. Commodity imports enter the EU by sea and transit through sea-port silos. The main storekeepers managing these silos are members of UNISTOCK.

Also see: <http://www.unistock.be/>

⇒ *Processors*

FEDIOL, the federation of the EU vegetable Oil and Protein Meal Industry, represents the interests of the European crushers of oilseed, meal producers and vegetable oil producers/processors. Its members represent around 85% of the EU industry.

Also see: <http://www.fediol.eu>

These associations represent the majority of European operators importing, handling and processing viable cotton commodity. They work closely together with a continuous and efficient flow of communication between them, particularly, through the documentation that needs to accompany any shipment containing GMOs in accordance with the labelling and traceability requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 (EC, 2003b), and are therefore best placed to observe and report any unanticipated adverse effects.

Other networks consisting of operators further down the food and feed chain have not been selected for the general surveillance of viable GM cotton, because they focus on processed, non-viable material.

### **3.2.3 Details of information and/or training provided to importers, traders, handlers, processors, etc**

The monitoring plan for these GM cotton (and the agreement with the network of operators, see Section 3.2.1) requires that the authorisation holder informs operators and users of the introduction of these GM cotton into the EU as well as on the safety and general characteristics of the product and of the conditions as to monitoring. Accordingly, the authorisation holder undertook to provide the necessary and relevant information concerning the placing on the market of these GM cotton to the relevant stakeholders within the first year following the authorisation of these GM cotton.

A summary of the information provided to the operators in accordance with the general surveillance system is provided under Section 3.2.1 of this report.

### **3.2.4 Results of General Surveillance**

The reporting by the trade associations takes place at the end of their business year, *i.e.* end of June. Therefore, EuropaBio reminded the trade associations to provide their annual report on any occurrence of unanticipated adverse effects arising from the approved GM products, including these GM cotton placed on the market during the period from July 2019 to June 2020.

The trade associations implemented the monitoring in the framework of their routine surveillance of the commodities (GM and non-GM) they handle and use. As required in the monitoring plan, they reminded their members *“to monitor for potential unanticipated adverse effects; that, in the framework of their management or safety standards (ISO, HACCP, etc), procedures must be in place and implemented to limit losses and spillage of viable GMOs and to routinely eradicate adventitious populations on their premises – any such adventitious populations, resisting routine eradication procedures, shall be treated as potential adverse effects; to inform and remind their own member companies of this requirement; and to report back any adverse effect reported to them to the European trade associations”*.

COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL members have in place Good Hygiene Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices in their daily operations, at the level of imports, storage, handling, and internal transport of grains and oilseeds commodities, as well as at the level of oilseed crushing and vegetable oil refining, irrespective of the botanical species of the commodity. Such practices form the pre-requisite programmes which are the foundation upon which their HACCP systems are built. Measures implemented in this context to limit losses and spillage of viable grains and oilseeds, as well as clean-up and eradication measures (in case of accidental spillage), allow trade associations to report any adverse effect that would be considered as “unusual” or “unanticipated” and potentially attributable to GMOs.

The trade associations informed EuropaBio in a format that reiterates the terms of the agreement of the general surveillance system and reports on the outcome of the monitoring. The format allows the authorisation holder to comply with the requirement to give evidence to the Commission and the Competent Authorities that the system is in place; that the trade associations are aware of the requirement to monitor; and, that they are providing information on any observed unanticipated adverse effects, if any.

The reports received from COCERAL, UNISTOCK and FEDIOL indicate that no adverse effects were reported from their members, thus implying that no adverse effects were linked to the presence of these GM cotton in the time period from July 2019 to June 2020 (see Annexes 2 and 3). Furthermore, no incidents in relation to the placing on the market of these GM cotton have been reported to EuropaBio or the authorisation holder since July 2020 to date.

### **3.2.5 Additional information**

Contact points for Dow AgroSciences in Europe have been made available to operators and users as part of the information provided in the fact-sheet on these GM cotton (published on the EuropaBio website). This allows operators and users to contact the authorisation holder directly for inquiries or to report any unusual effects observed in relation to the product.

To date, no inquiries or reports of unusual effects observed in relation with these GM cotton have been received.

### **3.2.6 Review of peer-reviewed publications**

A systematic search and review of peer-reviewed literature, in line with the EFSA guidance on conducting a systematic review (EFSA, 2010) and taking into account the explanatory note on literature searching (EFSA, 2019), was conducted with the following review question “Do these GM cotton and derived food/feed products, or the intended traits (the newly expressed proteins or their combination), have adverse effects on human and animal health and the environment in the scope of this authorisation?”, as described in Annex 4. The current systematic search complements the searches previously performed in the frame of the 2019 annual monitoring reports.

The review question and the search procedure took into account the product and scope of the authorisation (i.e., authorisation for import into the EU of food and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from these GM cotton) and the objectives of the studies (i.e., assessment of potential adverse effects on human and animal health and the environment of the genetically modified food and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from these GM cotton). The systematic searches were performed according to the relevant parts of the EFSA guidance on the application of systematic review methodology to food and feed safety assessments (EFSA, 2010). The fundamental principles followed in this study were (1) methodological rigour and coherence in the retrieval and selection of studies; (2) transparency; and (3) reproducibility. Each search used a procedure that was developed *a priori*.

The systematic search and review of studies published in the scientific literature followed a tiered approach that included: (i) a systematic literature search, (ii) a screening of the retrieved records for relevance to the review question, and (iii) a thorough analysis of potential studies that were considered relevant, if any.

The outcome of this systematic literature search and review showed that no publications were identified as relevant for the review question within the selected time-period (see Annex 4). No safety concerns have been identified for these GM cotton by this literature search exercise.

## **3.3 Case-Specific Monitoring**

### **3.3.1 Description and results of Case-Specific Monitoring (if applicable)**

The GMO Panel evaluated the monitoring plan proposed by the authorisation holder and from its risk assessment considered that there was no requirement for a case-specific monitoring since no adverse effects were identified. The monitoring plan consisting of a general surveillance plan is in line with the intended uses for the GMO since the scope does not include cultivation.

### **3.3.2 Processing (if applicable)**

Not applicable (see section 3.3.1).

### **3.3.3 Monitoring and reporting of adverse effects resulting from accidental spillage (if applicable)**

Not applicable (see section 3.3.1).

### **3.4 Concluding remarks**

The results of the monitoring plan of these GM cotton indicate that no adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment have been observed for these GM cotton import and use for food, feed and processing.

## **4 SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Dow AgroSciences, as authorisation holder, has implemented the monitoring requirements in accordance with the relevant articles of the authorising decision and as required under Article 4 of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/891 (EC, 2011) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1211 (EC, 2017).

The general surveillance system put in place by the plant biotechnology industry and the European trade associations and utilised by the authorisation holder for these GM cotton imports, is functioning well. It provides for monitoring of potential unanticipated adverse effects that might arise from the presence of GMO material (including these GM cotton) during import, handling and processing of crop commodities and ensures that any observed adverse effects are reported immediately to the authorisation holder. Furthermore, the trade associations provide annual reports to the authorisation holder via EuropaBio for the period from July to June, every year at the end of their business year.

The annual reports provided by the trade associations for the period from July 2019 to June 2020 revealed no adverse effects in the context of the placing on the market of these GM cotton imports (Annexes 2 and 3). Furthermore, no incidents in relation to the placing on the market of these GM cotton were reported to EuropaBio or the authorisation holder from July 2020 to date. Thus, no adverse effects have been reported by the trade associations from the date of approval of these GM cotton for import and use as or in food, feed and processing to date.

No articles or reports demonstrating adverse effects to human or animal health or the environment arising from these GM cotton in the scope of this authorisation were published in peer-reviewed scientific publications during the current reporting period or before.

As a consequence, the results of the general surveillance of these GM cotton carried out from July 2019 to June 2020 confirm no adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment have arisen from the introduction of these GM cotton into the EU.

## **5 ADAPTATIONS OF MONITORING PLAN AND ASSOCIATED METHODOLOGY FOR FUTURE YEARS**

In the light of the successful implementation of and results from current monitoring activities, the authorisation holder considers that the general surveillance system in place for the monitoring of these GM cotton imports is fully appropriate and does not require amendment.



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 21.12.2020

## REFERENCES

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- EC, 2003b. Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC. Official Journal of the European Union 268, 1-5.
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