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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
08 June 2021

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| SUMMARY REPORT |
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B.01 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 MON 88017 × MON 810 (MON-88017-3 × MON-00810-6) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The draft Decision renewing the authorisation of the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 88017 × MON 810 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee

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 MON 87427 × MON 87460 × MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 87411 × 59122 and genetically modified maize combining two, three, four or five of the single events MON 87427, MON 87460, MON 89034, 1507, MON 87411 and 59122, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 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 maize MON 87427 × MON 87460 × MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 87411 × 59122 and its subcombinations was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: no opinion.

Reasons for the negative vote or abstention:

- No agreed national position
- Negative public opinion
- Political reasons
- Precautionary principle
- Scientific reasons

Written statement issued by Austria:

“Austria is of the opinion that the risk assessment which has been carried out is affected by uncertainties unsuitable to give a scientific proof for the safety of this product and, therefore, objects the placing on the market of genetically modified maize MON87427 x MON87460 x MON89034 x 1507 x MON87411 x 59122 for the following reasons:

a. The genetically modified maize MON87427 x MON87460 x MON89034 x 1507 x MON87411 x 59122 is carrier of an antibiotic resistance marker gene (i.e. nptII) which may facilitate the dissemination of antimicrobial resistance in soil and gut bacteria. Considering the current crisis in antibiotic resistance, we cannot support a deliberate fueling of the environmental antibiotic resistance gene pool by this product.

b. By not removing this resistance gene from the commercialized product – although technically possible by the implemented cre-lox system - the applicant is violating Commission Implementing Regulation 503/13 on the “insertion of marker genes and other nucleic acid(s) sequences not essential to achieve the desired trait”, Article 4(2) of Directive 2001/18/EC on phasing out of antibiotic resistance genes and EFSA guidance document of the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed (2006) (avoiding superfluous DNA in transgenic plants).”

Written statement issued by Sweden:

“The authorization of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize is on the agenda on the meeting mentioned above. The authorization does not include cultivation. GM-maize MON 87427 × MON 87460 × MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 87411 × 59122 and maize combining the modifications MON 87427, MON 87460, MON 89034, 1507, MON 87411 and 59122 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.

Glufosinate-ammonium has very serious properties and 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.”

Consequently, the Chair informed the Committee after the written procedure that the draft Decision would be submitted to the Appeal Committee.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2011/891/EU and Implementing Decisions 2017/1211/EU, 2017/1212/EU, 2017/2449/EU, 2019/2085/EU and 2019/2086/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from certain genetically modified organisms.

The draft Decision amending Implementing Decisions 2011/891/EU, 2017/1211/EU, 2017/1212/EU, 2017/2449/EU, 2019/2085/EU and 2019/2086/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products produced from certain genetically modified organisms was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2017/2450/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean DAS-44406-6.

The draft Decision amending Implementing Decision 2017/2450/EU as regards the authorisation holder and its representative in the Union for the placing on the market of products produced from genetically modified soybean DAS-44406-6 was presented to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to vote in written procedure in accordance with Article 3(5) of Regulation (EC) No 182/2011.

Vote taken by written procedure: Favourable opinion.