

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and Feed Safety, Innovation
Biotechnology

Brussels,
SANTE/E3/IC/aj ddg2.e.3 (2016)1097409

Dear Petitioner,

Subject: New Plant Breeding Techniques

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 February 2016 on the above matter. Commissioner Andriukaitis has asked me to reply on his behalf.


Let me reassure you that the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, is working to ensure the proper implementation of the EU legislation and to ensure a high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment.

The Commission is carrying out a legal analysis to clarify the scope of the EU GMO legislation¹. The analysis is intended to provide elements of interpretation which can be helpful to clarify the status of organisms produced through new breeding techniques. The Commission's legal analysis is currently ongoing and results cannot be anticipated yet.

Where organisms fall under the scope of the GMO legislation, they are subject to the relevant provisions on the risk assessment procedures, the prior authorisation and on traceability and labelling foreseen by the GM legislation.

I hope the above elements alleviate your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Chantal Bruetsch
Head of Unit

¹ Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms; OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1.