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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

(Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*)

CIRCABC Link: *https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/653856a6-84bf-47e5-b97b-01d5806adf5a*

A.01 JRC draft Technical Report on the use of EU Reference Methods and JRC decision tools for GMO analysis – Presentation by JRC.

JRC presented this draft report, which has been approved by ENGL Steering Committee. It is based on the results of a survey across National Reference Laboratories on their use of the EU reference methods for the detection and identification of GMOs[1].
This report will be published shortly on the EURL-GMFF website.
Two Member States informed about the online database EUginius[2] that they developed to provide information about the presence, detection and identification of GMOs.

A.02 Scientific Opinion on application EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-117 for authorisation of genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × NK603 and subcombinations independently of their origin, for food and feed uses, import and processing submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Monsanto Company - 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 maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × NK603 and its sub-combinations. The presentation also addressed comments made by Member States. One Member State asked for clarifications about the methodology used for sub-combinations assessment. EFSA recalled about the approach to evaluate sub-combinations recently adopted by the GMO Panel[3], which was used for this application to conclude positively on the sub-combinations.

[1] EU database available online at http://gmo-crl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/gmomethods/
[2] Available online at http://www.euginius.eu/
[3] Published as an Annex of the Minutes of the 115th Plenary meeting of the Panel on GMOs, https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/event/170517-m.pdf

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 soybean 40-3-2 x 305423 (DP-3Ø5423-1 × MON-Ø4Ø32-6) 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 soybean 40-3-2 x 305423 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

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 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified oilseed rapes MON 88302 × Ms8 × Rf3 (MON-883Ø2-9 × ACSBNØØ5-8 × ACS-BNØØ3-6), MON 88302 × Ms8 (MON-883Ø2-9 × ACSBNØØ5-8) and MON 88302 × Rf3 (MON-883Ø2-9 × ACS-BNØØ3-6) 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 oilseed rapes MON 88302 × Ms8 × Rf3, MON 88302 × Ms8 and MON 88302 × Rf3 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

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

B.03 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 1507 (DAS-Ø15Ø7-1) 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 1507 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 authorisation of placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize is on the agenda for this meeting. The authorisation does not include cultivation. Maize MON 1507 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.

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

M.01 Transit of non-authorised GMO.

At the last Standing Committee meeting, one Member State mentioned the request by an operator for "introduction/transit" of a feed additive containing a non-authorised GMO for use in feed/food with the aim of exporting it to a third country. Since the last meeting, this Member State gathered further information and clarified that the product was imported from a third country, was placed under customs supervision and will not be released for free circulation in the EU.

The Commission clarified that this is a situation of "external transit" as referred to in the Union's Customs Code (Regulation (EU) No 952/2013), which is a special customs procedure. Products in external transit are not released for free circulation in the EU and are not be considered as placed on the EU market. Therefore, a feed additive containing a GMO may be in "external transit" through the customs territory of the Union without being authorised under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

M.02 Possible use of surplus GM animals as feed for prey animals in closed installations.

One Member State asked whether the use of surplus GM animals as feed for small prey animals (eg. snakes, raptors) in facilities such as zoos would require a prior authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003; surplus GM animals, in this context, are GM animals (essentially mice) intended for use in research but which finally cannot be used because they do not have the necessary characteristics.
The Commission confirms that for such envisaged use, an authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 is necessary, as that Regulation does not contain any explicit derogation for specific categories of animals.

M.03 Unauthorised cotton seeds.

One Member State informed about a notification it submitted via RASFF about a shipment of whole seeds from two GM cottons, imported from a third country. The Commission clarified that only products *produced from* these two cottons are authorised in the EU. The question whether, under Article 19 and 20 of the Official Controls Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 882/2004), those seeds could be processed in the EU to turn them into products produced from those two cottons, will be discussed at the next Standing Committee.

M.04 Information by EFSA on their activities related to GMOs.

One Member State expressed the need for more information and better communication on activities carried out by EFSA units and relevant scientific Panels when those are linked to GMOs, as for instance the ongoing public consultation on a new EFSA guidance on the characterisation of microorganisms used as feed additives or as production organisms, which also relates to GMOs. The Commission said that it would transmit that request to EFSA and explained that the GMO Panel of EFSA endorsed the guidance before the launch by EFSA of the public consultation.