EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)5251887

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Genetically Modified Food and Feed*
12 July 2019

CIRCABC Link: ***https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/cbf7e643-e0e7-4a19-9bdc-06ec4b8bf556***

SUMMARY REPORT

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decisions 2007/305/EC, 2007/306/EC and 2007/307/EC as regards the tolerance period for traces of Ms1xRf1 (ACS-BNØØ4-7xACS-BNØØ1-4) hybrid oilseed rape, Ms1xRf2 (ACS-BNØØ4-7xACS-BNØØ2-5) hybrid oilseed rape and Topas 19/2 (ACS-BNØØ7-1) oilseed rape, as well as their derived products.

The draft Decision amending Decisions 2007/305/EC, 2007/306/EC and 2007/307/EC as regards the tolerance period for traces of Ms1xRf1 hybrid oilseed rape, Ms1xRf2 hybrid oilseed rape and Topas 19/2 oilseed rape, and their derived products, was presented to the Committee and submitted for a vote.

Vote taken: Favourable 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 MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 × DAS-40278-9 and genetically modified maize combining two, three or four of the single events MON 89034, 1507, MON 88017, 59122 and DAS-40278-9 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 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 × DAS-40278-9, and genetically modified maize combining two, three or four of the single events MON 89034, 1507, MON 88017, 59122 and DAS-40278-9, 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
- Precautionary principle
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient

Written statement issued by Sweden:
"The 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. Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9 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."

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 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and sub-combinations MON 89034 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9, 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and NK603 × DAS-40278-9 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 89034 × 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and sub-combinations MON 89034 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9, 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 and NK603 × DAS-40278-9, 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
- Precautionary principle
- Risk assessment deemed not sufficient

Written statement issued by Sweden:
"The 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. Maize MON 89034 × 1507 × NK603 × DAS-40278-9 MON 89034 x 1507 x MON88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9 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."

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

M.01 FAO questionnaire – meeting of the FAO GM Foods Platform.

In view of the upcoming Global Community Meeting of the FAO GM Foods Platform in September, FAO sent a questionnaire to its Focal Points. One Member State suggested a coordinated approach with a reply to the questionnaire at EU level by the Commission, where MS would refer to the Commission's replies and only add national specificities (linked to their national risk assessment bodies). All Member States agreed with this approach. The Commission presented its draft replies and agreed to share them with the Member States. The Member States also agreed to share their specific replies.

M.02 Member States' controls in GMO imports.

One Member State raised difficulties of tracing two GMOs obtained by new breeding techniques and marketed in third countries. The Commission confirmed that it is the responsibility of operators to comply with the European Union legislation, and the responsibility of Member States to enforce the legislation. The Commission referred to the work of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL)[1], which acknowledges challenges for the detection of some genome edited products.

M.03 Letter from Russia on non-compliant GMO imports.

Further to a question raised by a Member State as a follow-up of the previous Standing Committee meeting, the Commission confirmed that the reply to Russia has been shared with the Member States.

M.04 European citizens' initiative on new breeding techniques.

The Commission informed about the European citizens' initiative[2] requesting the revision of the Directive 2001/18/EC to facilitate authorisation of products obtained by new breeding techniques. The registration of this initiative will take place on 25 July 2019, starting a 1-year process of collection of signatures of support by its organisers.

[1] http://gmo-crl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/doc/JRC116289-GE-report-ENGL.pdf
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/welcome?lg=en