

Paris, 12 10 2016

**From the UEAA General Assembly meeting in Paris, 11 October 2016, Resolution approved.**

**Position on the Regulation of Targeted Mutagenesis in**

**Plant Breeding**

*This UEAA position derives from the Opinion adopted by the Academy of Agriculture of France and the Academy of Technology of France on July 7, 2016*

**Since the early 1990s techniques of induced mutagenesis targeted by biotechnological processes have been developed. Targeted mutations obtained are of great interest for plant breeding as they can accelerate the creation of varieties of interest and therefore reduce costs associated with it.**

It seems hence important that the issue of access to new technologies for genome modification, targeted mutagenesis, is studied and discussed taking good account of the evolution of techniques and the benefits they bring in many applications derived progress facts in the life sciences. Their low cost and ease of implementation would allow their use by many breeding companies regardless of their size, for public research laboratories, contributing to maintaining the diversity of plant breeding stakeholders.

Their use in Europe, both in the field of research and in agricultural production, will depend on regulations that will be applied to them. Hence, a clear European regulatory frame is needed and yet the current European regulatory landscape is somewhat confused. It is critically important that the European Commission and its Member States quickly specify the status of these technologies in the plant area to avoid any uncertainty that might penalize the research, innovation and European agriculture in a socio-economic context increasingly globalized.

From the perspective of both these French Academies, techniques of targeted mutagenesis can, in principle, be excluded from the techniques regulated by the European Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.

**The Academy of Agriculture of France and the Academy of Technology express their wish that the public authorities permit the development of the experiments in progress, including field experiments and accordingly use their results in order to prepare a regulatory framework which incorporates both biomonitoring and technical advances that these new technologies may provide.**