



U E A A NEWSLETTER

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Latest News

Recent UEAA initiatives in regards to the European Commission concerning Gene Editing.

Following active work of an UEAA Electronic Working Group of experts from 7 European countries, some Recommendations for an EU regulation frame concerning Genome Editing Research and Development for Crop Plants and Farm Animals have been elaborated during the last term of 2021, then approved by the UEAA Steering Committee and published on January 3, 2022 on the UEAA web site (www.ueaa.info).

The UEAA has followed very carefully the E U issue about Gene Editing in Crop Plants and Farm Animals:

1. This led the UEAA first to publish on 5 November 2020 a Position Paper (www.ueaa.info) claiming that the Directive 2001/18 / EC has become unsuitable due to advances in scientific knowledge and recent technical advances such as genome editing and hence urges the E U Governance to review and adjust the European regulations on GMO's to recent scientific progress.
2. Following the publication of the EC study on new genomic techniques on 29 April 2021 by the EU Commission, the UEAA released a communiqué (4 May 2021) published on the UEAA web site and stating that “the UEAA welcomes the eagerly awaited note on the study of the E U Commission on New Genomic Techniques (N G T)..... However, it is regrettable that the text has so little regard for the production animals which are barely touched upon in the text of the study. In particular, there is no mention of the important potential of using these techniques to consider for production animals suitable prophylactic measures against enzootic or panzootic infectious diseases, particularly in the case of zoonoses.”
3. In order to be proactive, the UEAA Steering Committee decided to make some recommendations to the EU. Such Recommendations have been elaborated by a UEAA

international Electronic Working Group of European experts and been approved by the UEAA Steering Committee on January 3, 2022.

These Recommendations are now published and available on the UEAA web site (www.ueaa.info). The over whole aim of such a paper is to propose to the EU Commission a regulatory frame in order to facilitate Research and Development in the European Union on Gene Editing in safe conditions, research which is critically needed in regard to what is being invested in other parts of the world.

This UEAA paper includes a first “Considering that...” section, then a second section devoted to Crop Plants with some statements and 4 recommendations and last third section devoted to Farm Animals. This last section also includes some preliminary statements and 7 recommendations based on the different technical approaches in animals. It is of particular notice that such a frame for research in Farm Animals seems to be proposed for the first time with particular relevance to the current context of devastating panzootic animal diseases.
