



COMMUNIQUE: The UEAA has participated to the E U Commission Public consultation “on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques.

The full communiqué :

The proposal of UEAA, made through the answer to the 17 questions of the survey and completed by 14 developed comments is supporting the implementation of a new regulation framework, adapted to the evaluation of NGTs, based on scientific knowledge and pragmatic approach. The legislation UEAA would like to see, is for the benefit of consumers, farmers and industries, supporting EU agricultural sustainability and the achievement of food self-sufficiency.

After the Council request of 2019 on the status of NGTs, the Commission published a study in April 2021, followed by an impact assessment. This study has confirmed the rapid and global development of these techniques as a result of a number of scientific discoveries, some of them being less than one decade old. Plant applications have already been placed on the market in several countries around the world and will be more and more numerous in the next few years. There is an urgency to adapt the UE regulation on GMOs to the recent scientific progress and to the new products.

Considering that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has concluded “that plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis can have the same risk profile as plants produced with conventional breeding”, UEAA considers that the GMO regulation needs to be adapted to scientific and technological progress and that overregulation of the new plant products on their potential safety or environmental impacts is not wise.

The potential of NGTs to improve the quality of plant production and of increasing plant resistance to pathogens or to cultivation conditions (biotic and abiotic stresses) has already been clearly proved for many crops. Undoubtedly, they have the potential to contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal (Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies), limiting carbon dioxide emission, pesticide and fertilizers use.