CONTRIBUTION SANTE/E3 TO BRIEFING - CAB KYRIAKIDES/1617

COLLEGE SEMINARS OF COMMISSIONERS

12/01/2024 10:00 – 16:30

Place TBC
1. Steering note

Background on competitiveness and burden reduction on new genomic techniques

The Commission adopted on proposal on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques on 5 July 2023. The impact assessment, that supports the proposal, identifies positive impacts on the competitiveness of several sectors.

A significantly lower regulatory burden will increase investments in R&D, both from large multinational plant breeders as well as SMEs. For plants meeting the criteria for equivalence with conventional plants (‘category 1 NGT plants’), development costs can be even lower than for conventionally bred varieties. This will allow operators to compete with operators from non-EU countries which have exempted conventional-like NGT products from their GMO legislation. It will also increase research competitiveness of the EU and offer research and employment opportunities for plant scientists, addressing the perceived problem of brain drain.

The proposed legislation is the most advantageous for SMEs and supports their freedom to do business, as administrative and compliance costs will decrease considerably for ‘category 1 NGT’ products. It would allow SMEs to use advanced technologies to strengthen their competitiveness on European and global markets. In turn, an enabling framework for SMEs could be more conducive to R&D on niche crops and traits.

Regarding burden reduction, the impact assessment shows that the proposal presents an important simplification of processes of the current authorisation procedure, notably through the adapted risk assessment and the new verification procedure for products that fulfil the criteria for equivalence to conventional breeding.

For breeders, the proposed measures would lead to a significant reduction of adjustment costs. The total savings in costs per year are estimated to range from a minimum of EUR 99.5 m to a maximum of EUR 163.5 m. The total savings in costs per year for national administrations are estimated to range from EUR 0 to EUR 2.1 m. For farmers using NGT varieties, savings were estimated to range from EUR 22 m (for vegetable crops) to EUR 2.7 bn (for cereals) due to potential yield improvement of crops.

Regarding administrative costs, the NGT proposal would entail an annual cost saving for breeders ranging from EUR 16.15 m to EUR 46.25 m.