New Genomic Technics (NGT): Legislative proposal

- Thank Argentina for submitting comments on the NGT plant proposal and inform that we will formally reply to those comments.

- Underline that our legislative proposal aims to strike the right balance in addressing various interests and concerns and allowing to transform into reality the potential of plants obtained by new genomic techniques (NGTs) to deliver on sustainability, resilience, food security and adaptation to climate change, while ensuring safety and transparency.

- Inform that our proposal simplifies the current rules applicable to NGT plants, by exempting from the requirements of the GMO legislation NGT plants that could have been obtained conventionally – following a verification that these plants meet a set of clear criteria - and providing for an adapted authorisation procedures for other plants, with incentives to plants that can contribute to sustainability and support to SMEs.

- Note that the NGT plant proposal should have a favourable effect on trade with third countries applying a comparable approach.

- Assure Argentina that science-based conclusions underpin the proposed NGT regulation, and that the proposed NGT authorisation procedure is simpler and more streamlined than the current GM procedures.

- Mention that we are aware that Argentina uses general criteria to be implemented case-by-case, but ultimately with the same aim of exempting from GMO requirements plants that could have been obtained conventionally. Enquire how Argentina will ensure that the case-by-case decisions are implemented coherently in the absence of more details.

- Acknowledge the concerns of Argentina about the proposed ban of the use of NGT plants in organic production. We have considered this very carefully. However, the clear majority of the EU organic sector considers that NGTs are not compatible with the wider objectives of the Organic Products Regulation. These objectives inform consumer expectations with regard to organic products. Therefore, the proposal maintains the prohibition to use NGT plants in organic production.