



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Acting Director-General

Brussels,
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Dear [REDACTED],

Subject: Position on review of GMO authorization process by the European Commission

I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 January 2015 addressed to the President of the Commission regarding the decision-making process in the GMO field. As GMOs fall within the areas of competence of the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, President Juncker asked me to reply on his behalf.

One has to recognise that even if the EU has a very strict authorisation system based on science, the EU decision-making process presents singularities which cannot be found in other areas, and which need to be addressed.

There are Member States which support the use of GMOs based on the same kind of arguments than those highlighted in your letter. Other Member States abstain or vote against the draft decisions of authorisation of a GMO proposed by the Commission for reasons which, most of the time, are not of scientific nature but relate to national societal concerns.

Against this background, President Juncker announced in his Political Guidelines, that the Commission would review the decision-making process in the GMO area by April 2015. This review should allow identifying whether there would be fields of improvements in the Union legal framework which would allow a better expression of Member States' concerns. Let me reassure you on the fact that the Commission does not intend to launch, in this context, any initiative which would be against the general principles of Union law or against the international obligations of the Union.

Yours sincerely,

Ladislav Miko

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