

To: CLARKE John (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI)

Cc: [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI); [REDACTED] (AGRI)

Subject: US - meeting with DuPont - 3 Nov. 2016

Participants:

DuPont: [REDACTED] (vice President), [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
 DG AGRI: John Clarke (A), [REDACTED] (H5), [REDACTED] (A1)

The meeting took place at the request of DuPont (*Transparency register: 3181166932-58*) and was mainly a courtesy visit of the newly appointed vice-President. The discussion focused on innovation in agriculture and TTIP negotiations.

DuPont explained that the visit is part of a tour in the UK and Brussels to meet a range of professional organisations, NGOs, including environmental NGOs and organic farming organisations. The objective is to improve the understanding of European agriculture of DuPont new vP, including societal concerns and to explain DuPont's perspectives. From its contacts with environmental NGOs and organic farming organisations, DuPont drew the conclusion that the opposition to new ag technologies such as GMOs, arises from the fact that these technologies are perceived as going against the use of good agro-environmental practices.

DG AGRI noted that the EU society remains quite ambivalent about certain innovations in agriculture, such as GMOs and that a lot of concerns relate to the fear that farmers are increasingly becoming dependant of very few big multinational companies.

DG AGRI made a brief introduction to the agriculture component Europe2020 research programme and in particular its key objectives (e.g. climate change and digitilisation), stressing in particular that funding is open to EU and non-EU research organisations including private companies.

From DuPont's perspective, the concentration of the agrochemical and seed sectors is also a response to the concentration in the farm sectors. DuPont explained that in term of innovation the company can play a role to address climate change issues. Digitilisation and gene editing technologies are among the company priorities. DuPont explained that a new maize variety with specific starch characteristics and which has been produced by gene editing techniques has recently received non-regulatory status by USDA. In theory this new variety could be commercialised rather shortly, although no timeline has been identified. DuPont enquired about Commission's current thinking on New Breeding Techniques. DG AGRI referred DuPont to DG SANTE which is in charge of this file.

On TTIP, DG AGRI recalled that the negotiations are now in the middle game phase. While they are expected to slow down in the coming months pending the new US administration takes office, the negotiations are expected to regain intensity by mid-2017. DuPont's attention was

drawn to the increasing public opposition to TTIP in some Member States, which cannot be ignored. On SPS issues, DG AGRI noted that it seems accepted by all US stakeholders that the EU is not going to change its food safety legislation, including the EU GMO legislation. One of the main concerns of the negotiation relates to GIs where the negotiations have not yet started. Companies like DuPont need to be aware there will be no TTIP agreement without GIs. Furthermore, GIs being part of the "rule silo", the issues cannot be all addressed during the end game phase as it takes time to put in place a system to protect GIs. So the US needs to start seriously engaging on the issue. DG AGRI further explained that the number of "problematic" GIs is limited and solutions can be found.

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