



Attn. [REDACTED], Member of the Commissioner Jyrki  
KATAINEN Cabinet, European Commission

3 February 2016

Re: Request for a meeting with the 'New Breeding Techniques' Platform

Dear [REDACTED]

In the last ten years, the European plant breeding sector has been playing a leading role in the development of more precise and efficient plant breeding methods which can introduce desired characteristics in a wide variety of crops. The availability of these new technologies offers an opportunity for European farmers to respond to increasing consumers' demands, food security and sustainability.

Against this background, a coalition of SMEs, large industry representatives and members of prominent academic and research institutes created in 2011 the NBT Platform. Our aim is to provide clear and understandable information on these so called 'New Breeding Techniques' (NBTs) as well as to generate awareness about their potential benefits.

To our knowledge, the European Commission will very soon publish a Guidance document aiming at clarifying the legal status of NBTs: following endorsement by the EU Commissioner for Health & Food Safety Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, we understand that the final draft should very soon be communicated to other EU Commissioners and Commission Directorates for final consultation.

We would like to use the opportunity of this consultation to ask your availability to meet with you and discuss the implications of this guidance document for the EU plant breeding and agri-food sector: EU Regulatory certainty is crucial for these actors, in particular for SMEs which represent a significant portion - in some Member States up to 90% - of the EU seed sector. The NBT Platform therefore pleads for the rapid publication of this document.

We also fear that the possible classification of NBTs under the EU GMO legislation would have a negative impact on jobs, R&D and economic growth in the EU, in case the companies active in these sectors are forced to abandon all activities, due to higher regulatory costs required for authorisation purposes.

I would be glad to present to you these different arguments abovementioned. These are also as further outlined in the 'information fact sheet' accompanying this letter.

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Finally I would like to thank you in advance for the attention you may give to this demand and I remain at your disposal should you have any particular question concerning the objectives and/or organization of the proposed meeting.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

Chairman of the NBT Platform & Managing Partner Schuttelaar & Partners

[Redacted contact information]