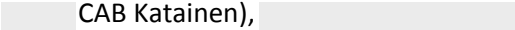
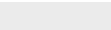


Ref. Ares(2016)1130287 - 04/03/2016

Meeting with the New Breeding Techniques (NBT) Platform on 22/2/2016

Participants:

 CAB Katainen),  (CAB Katainen),  (SG/E/1)
 (NBT platform)

Background:

The meeting had been requested by the NBT platform in order to present its views on the interpretation of the scope of the GMO EU-legislation as regards new breeding techniques (NBTs).

Summary:

The representatives of the NBT platform presented the work on this dossier and stressed its importance for research-based European companies, in particular SMEs. They presented a "decision tree" for deciding whether NBTs are within the scope of the EU acquis for GMOs. They also presented the approach in certain third countries and informed that, in Europe, NBTs are close to entering the market. The representatives of the NBT platform argued that that NBTs are not detectable in the final organism (in this context, they applied a distinction whether regulation is "process based" or "product based"). They listed several benefits of NBTs vis-à-vis conventional breeding as well as "classical" genetic modification. They argued that, for reasons of legal certainty, a clear stance on this dossier was required from the Commission.

CAB Katainen stressed that no decisions have been taken on this file and, when asked, informed that the inter-service consultation has not started. CAB Katainen stressed the importance to ensure legal certainty and to have a "future-proof" approach that ensures competitiveness and innovation, while maintaining a high level of health and environmental protection.