



- Meeting with ES AGRI
- Subject: New genomic techniques
- Date: 21.9.2023
- Place:

SANTE/E3 CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRIEFING:

MEETING WITH ES AGRI MINISTER

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Place

1. Key messages

1.1. New genomic techniques

- I would like to thank you for the attention the Spanish Presidency is giving to the proposal on plants obtained by new genomic techniques and for the efforts to progress with the discussions in the Council.
- We have noted the calls from some Member States to require traceability and labelling of food and feed derived from category 1 NGT plants. The proposal foresees the necessary tools so that farmers can avoid cultivating such plants if they so want. However, measures as now called for by these Member States would undermine the objective to allow integration of category 1 NGTs in conventional breeding and farming by farmers and supply chains who want to use them, as they would require full segregation of each NGT variety in all cases.
- In this context, my services will engage with various Member States to understand their positions better and support your efforts to progress on the file.
- The Commission is aware that patentability of NGT plants is a matter of concern to many. This is why we have announced a study in the Communication that accompanied the legislative package that the Commission and will give further technical explanations to the Member States in the working party. We are open to provide further explanations and engage with

Member States on this topic, but we should avoid blocking progress on the proposal.

- Is your objective to reach general agreement on the proposal under your Presidency?
- In the next AGRIFISH Council meeting in October, what key issues do you plan to address and how do you plan to steer the discussions?

2. Background

The Spanish Presidency is very keen to progress with the proposal on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs) as much as possible.

The proposal was presented and discussed in AGRIFISH Council on 25 July and part of the discussions in the Informal AGRIFISH Council on 5 September. A further exchange of views is planned for AGRIFISH Council on 23-24 October, potentially to discuss topics that need political orientation.

Three Council Working Party meetings (altogether 5 days) have taken place (7 and 26-27 July and 11-12 September), where the Commission has presented and explained the proposal in detail. Further six meetings have been scheduled (altogether 11 days). Next meeting takes place on 25-26 September.

While a number of Member States maintain scrutiny reservations and have still been mostly asking questions, various delegations start to express positions and make first drafting suggestions. DG GROW will give explanations on intellectual property in a forthcoming working party on 5-6 October.