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Brussels, 21 June 2023

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2023¹ addressed to Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioner Wojciechowski and myself on enabling the regulatory framework for conventional-like plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs). I reply also on my colleagues' behalf, as I have overall responsibility for the file.

As you know, the Commission is currently finalising an impact assessment on this issue, in view of tabling a legislative proposal in the near future.

I took good note of your position that conventional-like NGT plants should be regulated as conventional plants. In the upcoming policy initiative, which will concern targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis, the Commission will consider an adaptation of the current legislation to cater for the diversity of products that can be obtained with them. In this regard, the policy options examined in the ongoing impact assessment do include the possibility of a differentiated approach for those NGT plants/products which could occur in nature or could be obtained by conventional breeding.

I also note your position regarding organics and am aware also of different views among stakeholders in organic production on whether certain NGT products should be available to that sector, as well as on the most appropriate measures to ensure choice for farmers. I can assure you that the potential impacts on the organic sector of different policy options are dealt with thoroughly in the impact assessment. I agree that providing farmers with freedom of choice to use or not NGTs should be ensured in any case.

¹ Our reference Ares(2023)2935153

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The Commission has actively engaged with stakeholders to discuss these issues and assess what an optimal regulatory framework for these techniques would be, including as regards coexistence of different types of agricultural production. In this respect, we are aiming at proportionate regulatory oversight that combines high levels of safety with clear benefits to society and the environment, in line with the objectives of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork.

I would like to thank you once again for the constructive input into this process and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

