



- Meeting with Spanish Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador
- Subject: Relationship with Spain
- Date: 30.3.2023 at 11:00-12:00
- Place:

1. Steering note

The NGT policy initiative is of high interest to Spain. Spain has actively contributed to all the consultations in the context of the impact assessment. In a recent meeting with you on 2 March, they indicated they would aim for a Council position in their Presidency and are planning seven 2-day Council working party meetings between July and November.

Spain is of the view that

- the current legislation is not adequate for NGT plants and that these plants should be assessed using requirements adapted to their characteristics and risk profile;
- certain NGT plants should be treated in the same way as their conventional counterparts (with no need for risk assessment);
- there is no need for specific sustainability regulatory provisions in this initiative but information about the sustainability contribution of a modified trait should be made available to the consumer via a digital label or information available on a website or database.
- transparency for operators and consumers, on NGT plants is not necessary, but if needed physical or digital labels and website/databases can be used.

NGT initiative should lay foundations for a similar initiative on microorganisms, animals and other technologies.

Meeting participants:

Ambassador of Spanish Deputy Permanent Representative

Claire Bury

2. Key messages

2.1. New genomic techniques

- We are finalising the impact assessment and the work on the legislative proposal, which is provisionally planned for adoption in June.
- Based on the impact assessment, we aim to design a proposal that achieves a regulatory oversight which is fit for diverse products that can be obtained with NGTs.
- An important issue to consider is the impact on certain sectors like organic sector and design a balanced proposal that ensures the freedom of choice for all operators. How should this be achieved in your view, given the experience in Spain with GMO cultivation and coexistence?
- Although our priority is now plants, we continue to build up scientific knowledge on micro-organisms and animals and have mandated EFSA to provide an opinion on new developments in biotechnology regarding these organisms.
- Thank Spain for actively contributing to the consultation process and supporting the Commission's policy action.

- We look forward to working with you during the Presidency to move the file forward. I would be interested in knowing how you see the debate evolving in the Council and with the Parliament.