



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate B – Sustainability
B.3 – Social Sustainability

Brussels
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NOTE FOR THE FILE

**Subject: Meeting between Cabinet Wojciechowski, DG AGRI and seed industry
11/10/2022**

Seed industry: Personal data and Personal data (Bayer); Personal data (Limagrain);
Personal data (Syngenta); Personal data (KWS SAAT SE & Co. KGaA); Personal data
(Corteva Agriscience); Personal data (Euroseeds).

Commission: Jorge Pinto Antunes, Joana Stawowy and Personal data (Cabinet
Wojciechowski); Personal data (DG AGRI).

The meeting was organised at the request of the seed industry.

Seed industry:

- Farmers are awaiting/requesting from the industry and the Commission solutions to become sustainable while remaining profitable in the EU and in third countries (TCs). Organic and conventional seeds are produced by the same companies. Digitalization and better crop varieties are part of the solution. Farmers are key stakeholders in the development and uptake of innovation and they need to participate in the construction of new rules to achieve equity with the rest of the society and the farmers in TCs;
- New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) accelerate what could be achieved with traditional breeding. The regulatory framework under discussion is limited to NGTs which do not introduce genes from different species (the introduction of exogenous genes is under the GMO legislation). It may be necessary to combine our efforts to better communicate it to the general public;
- the seed industry is working on a platform that will allow medium and small players to have access to patented varieties. All crops are included therefore, plant breeders can also have access to minor crops helping to preserve diversity;
- new technologies will allow developing some species that may have been neglected in the past. However, high cost derived of the future regulatory

framework could result in the concentration on a limited number of crops. Profitability is also necessary;

- new varieties will allow reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizer and increase the yields. Digitalization and farmer practices are also key;
- at present, seed production is taking place mainly in sensitive areas. A ban of all pesticides in sensitive areas under the new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products will have an adverse impact on the seed production (including its quality) leading to increased need of the use of pesticides on crops;
- no geographical disparities in the EU in the use of technology. Financing is the main barrier for certain technologies.

Cabinet:

- thanked the attendees for their useful explanations and reminded that the relevant legislation is managed by DG SANTE. Consistency is ensured in the different initiatives;
- the adoption of the legislative proposals regarding seeds and plant reproductive material, NGTs, and the legislative framework for sustainable food systems will take place in 2023. DG AGRI has a keen interest for these questions and is closely following these topics. These initiatives are also key under the Farm to Fork and the Green Deal;
- requested, if available, to receive information regarding the potential return for farmers with the use of better quality seeds.

Electronically signed

Personal data

c.c.: Mr P. Bascou (AGRI.B), Ms Personal data (AGRI.B3), Ms Personal data (AGRI.B4), Ms Personal data (AGRI.F2), Ms Personal data Mr Per (AGRI.DG), Ms Personal AGRI.DDG1), Ms Personal (AGRI.DDG2), Ms Personal data Mr Personal data, Mr Personal data Ms Person (AGRI.B3),