

European Parliament's Environment Committee votes in favour of the proposal for New Genomic Techniques

Brussels, 24th January 2024

The positive vote of the European Parliament's Environment Committee on the proposal about New Genomic Techniques is a significant step towards enabling plant breeding innovation to contribute to a sustainable EU agriculture and food system

The proposal introduces a new regulatory framework for the authorisation of plants derived from Novel Genomic Techniques (NGTs) such as targeted mutagenesis and cis-genesis, differentiating them from classical transgenic GMOs. Under the new regime, conventional-like NGT plants would be regulated more like plants derived from current plant breeding methods. The proposal further outlines a verification procedure to establish the individual regulatory status of new varieties.

Commenting on the adoption of the report of MEP Jessica Polfjård, Euroseeds Secretary General Garlich von Essen said, *"This vote sends an important signal to Europe's breeders, farmers and citizens. Driving sustainability goes hand in hand with the need to support and enable innovation."* Von Essen emphasized that *"this legislative initiative has the potential to boost Europe's progress and leadership in plant breeding and ensure high-quality seed security, supporting our transition towards a resilient, truly sustainable food system."*

Before the vote, numerous agri-food associations, research and public institutions, NGOs, and farmers' organisations all voiced their support for the NGTs proposal. Over thirty Nobel prize winners, including CRISPR pioneers Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna, and thousands of scientists signed an open letter urging the ENVI Committee to endorse NGTs.

Following the positive votes by first the Agriculture and now the Environment Committee, the proposal is set for adoption by plenary vote in February.

"This legislation could be a real game-changer for Europe, its farmers and consumers. We thank all the Members of the COMAGRI and COMENVI that have contributed to driving it forward to this point today. And we are confident that the broad majorities in both Committees will be confirmed by the entire Parliament in February. This also sends an important message to the Council where we need quick progress to enable both institutions and the Commission to start trilogues and arrive at a final agreement."



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