

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Authorizes Four GE Crops for Import

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

On March 31, 2022, the European Commission (EC) approved three genetically engineered (GE) crops (1 soybean, 1 rapeseed, and 1 cotton) and renewed the authorization for 1 cotton crop for food and feed imports. The three authorizations and one renewal were published in the European Union's Official Journal on April 4 and 7, 2022, and they remain valid for 10 years.

General Information:

On March 31, 2022, the European Commission (EC) approved three genetically engineered (GE) crops (1 soybean, 1 rapeseed, and 1 cotton) and renewed the authorization for 1 cotton crop for food and animal feed. These four crops have all gone through a comprehensive and stringent authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The authorization and renewal decisions apply to food and feed for import and processing, but do not cover cultivation and are valid for 10 years. All products will be subject to the EU's strict labelling and traceability rules.

The three Commission Implementing Decisions for the authorizations were published in the [Official Journal of the European Union, L 105, 4 April 2022](#) while the renewal of the cotton crop was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union, L 108, 7 April 2022](#):

- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/529 of 31 March 2022 authorizing the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified oilseed rape 73496 \(DP-Ø73496-4\)](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/530 of 31 March 2022 authorizing the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified cotton GHB811 \(BCS-GH811-4\)](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/531 of 31 March 2022 authorizing the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean GMB151 \(BCS-GM151-6\)](#)
- [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/560 of 31 March 2022 renewing the authorization for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified cotton GHB614 \(BCS-GHØØ2-5\)](#)

Authorization Process:

All GE crops have gone through the EU's full authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as set in Directive 2001/18/EC. After a positive evaluation by EFSA, the EC puts forward a proposal for the authorization of the events that must be voted at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) for Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk by EU Member State (MS) representatives. A positive outcome in the PAFF Committee requires a qualified majority. Member States did not reach a qualified majority either in favor or against the GE crops at the Standing Committees and at the subsequent Appeal Committees thus the Commission has the legal duty to proceed with the authorizations.

Consideration and Outlook:

These four events were approved during subsequent PAFF Committee meetings on November 22, 2021, December 17, 2021 and January 20, 2022. The Appeal Committee meetings then took place on January 20, 2022, February 10, 2022, and March 3, 2022. This is the first group of GE approvals that the Commission has approved in 2022.

Attachments:

No Attachments.