

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 06, 2022

Report Number: E42022-0035

Report Name: European Commission Launches Public Consultation on
Genome Editing

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

On April 29, 2022, the European Commission launched a public consultation on "Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques" to seek stakeholder's views on a proposal for a legal framework for plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis and their food and feed products. The Commission's aim through this proposed legislation is to enable innovation in the agri-food system while contributing to the goals of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy and maintaining a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment. The public consultation is open until July 22, 2022.

General Information:

On May 20, 2020, the European Commission announced the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity Strategies as roadmaps for enhancing food and agricultural sustainability by 2030 under the European Green Deal. In the F2F Strategy, it says, “New innovative techniques, including biotechnology and the development of bio-based products, may play a role in increasing sustainability, provided they are safe for consumers and the environment while bringing benefits for society as a whole.” This statement was further reinforced in the Commission’s April 2021 study on “new genomic techniques” or genome editing.

On April 29, 2021, the European Commission [published a report](#) titled, “Study on the status of new genomic techniques under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice ruling in Case C-528/16.” [Currently within the EU](#), biotechnology products derived from all forms of genetic engineering (GE) are subject to an authorization procedure for food or feed use. Per the Court of Justice ruling, products derived from genome editing or new genomic techniques (NGTs) are also covered by the EU’s current “GMO Directive.” However, the Commission’s 2021 study concluded that this Directive is not “fit for purpose” for these newer biotechnology products and a targeted policy action was needed.

On September 24, 2021, the European Commission launched a policy initiative and roadmap on [“Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques.”](#) The initial feedback period lasted from September 24 to October 22, 2021 and received more than 70,000 comments. On April 29, 2022, the Commission launched the public consultation period to seek additional views from stakeholders on this policy initiative. The proposed legislation is then expected to be published in quarter two of 2023.

Commenting Process:

The Commission seeks to hear from a range of stakeholders within the public consultation, including those outside the EU. U.S. stakeholders who would like to comment can do so by filling in the online questionnaire at the following page:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13119-Legislation-for-plants-produced-by-certain-new-genomic-techniques/public-consultation_en

The deadline for input is midnight or 12:00 a.m. Brussels (Universal Time Coordinated + 01:00) on July 22, 2022. All comments provided through this consultation process may be released as public information. The questionnaire consists of several sections and should only be completed once.

Attachments:

No Attachments.