

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Authorizes Two 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 January 26, 2024, the European Commission approved two genetically engineered crops (1 maize and 1 rapeseed) for food and animal feed. The two authorizations were published in the European Union's Official Journal on January 30, 2024, and they remain valid for 10 years.

On January 26, 2024, the European Commission (EC) approved one genetically engineered (GE) maize crop and renewed the authorization for one rapeseed crop for food and animal feed. These two crops have 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 two Commission Implementing Decisions for the authorizations were published in the [Official Journal of the European Union, 30 January 2024](#):

[Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2024/391 of 26 January 2024 authorizing the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified maize Bt11 × MIR162 × MIR604 × MON 89034 × 5307 × GA21 and thirty sub-combinations, pursuant to Regulation \(EC\) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(notified under document C\(2024\) 434\)](#)

[Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2024/389 of 26 January 2024 renewing the authorization for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified oilseed rape Ms8, Rf3 and Ms8 × Rf3 pursuant to Regulation \(EC\) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(notified under document C\(2024\) 432\)](#)

Authorization Process:

The two GE crops have gone through the EU's full authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by 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 Committee and at the subsequent Appeal Committee thus the Commission has the legal duty to proceed with the authorizations.

Consideration and Outlook:

These two events were both discussed during the PAFF Committee meeting on October 24, 2023. The Appeal Committee meeting took place on November 28, 2023. This is the first group of GE approvals for export to the EU that the Commission has approved in 2024.

Attachments:

No Attachments.