



The Vital Link in the Food Chain

PFP press statement

New Genomic Techniques proposal a first step towards workable EU regulatory framework

Brussels, 7 July 2023 - On 5 July, the European Commission published their proposal for a new Regulation on plants produced by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs).

The need for good quality, safe, affordable ingredients and food products is currently challenged by climate change and plant diseases. Primary Food Processors (PFP) welcome that, with this proposal, the European Commission acknowledges the contribution that an adequate NGT legal framework can make in tackling those challenges affecting the competitiveness of primary food processing in Europe.

PFP especially welcomes the proposal's suggestion that 'conventional-like' Category 1 plants are to be exempt from the provisions of the EU GMO legal regime, without compromising transparency across the supply chain.

Although no silver bullet to the myriad challenges facing EU agriculture today, NGTs hold much promise. They can enhance the resilience of crops to pests, diseases, and abiotic stress. And they can deliver higher-yielding varieties. All this means more revenues for farmers, a more competitive primary food processing industry, and reinforced EU food security.

PFP will continue engaging constructively with the EU regulators and stakeholders to ensure a workable and internationally coherent framework. We hope this will end the current situation whereby the EU is at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis countries where such techniques have long been allowed.

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Primary Food Processors of the EU (PFP) is composed of:

European Association of Sugar Manufacturers (CEFS)

European Cocoa Association (ECA)

European Flour Milling Association (European Flour Millers)

European Vegetable Protein Association (EUVEPRO)

European Vegetable Oil and Proteinmeal Industry (FEDIOL)

European Starch Industry Association (Starch Europe)