

***Contribution to briefing for meeting of DG Anne Bucher with MEP Eikhout on 11-09-2019
(SANTE 4868)***

1. New breeding techniques (NBTs)

The Greens are critical of new plant breeding techniques. They welcomed the ECJ ruling to restrict NBTs and treat them under the GMO legislation. It may be expected that they will be active participants in debates on the follow-up to the court ruling. It could be useful to raise this topic and see exactly where the Greens see the boundaries. Does the ECJ ruling fully reflect their position and is the debate now closed as far as they are concerned? Or do they see a possibility for a separate legal framework for NBTs? You could inform about difficulties arising from the current situation – how to enforce the judgement. And also on potential missed opportunities, including with regard to progress on more sustainable agriculture.

Suggested lines to take:

- Note the interest in the Parliament – previous and current – on NBTs. It is clear that the ECJ ruling has both fans and critics in the Parliament.
- Remind that one of the major challenges following the ruling is enforcement – an inability to distinguish between products of conventional breeding and those of NBTs.
- Note the suggestions from some quarter that NBTs could be a tool towards more sustainable agriculture. The possibility to use less pesticides, for example.
- Ask the MEP how he sees the debate unfolding in ENVI with regard to the implications of the Court ruling.