



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food and feed safety, innovation
The Director

Brussels
SANTE.E.3 [REDACTED] 2020)1409859

Subject: Use of genome editing technologies in agriculture

Dear [REDACTED], dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 2020, addressed to President von der Leyen, who has requested me to reply on her behalf.

I would like to thank you for sharing your views on genome editing, which you would like to be taken into account in the Commission study on new genomic techniques.

As you are aware, based on Article 241 TFEU, the Council has requested the Commission (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1904¹) to submit a study regarding the status of “novel genomic techniques”, including genome editing, under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice of the European Union’s judgment (Case C-528/16).

For the elaboration of the study, the Commission will gather contributions in a targeted consultation of the Member States and relevant stakeholders (the list of European associations consulted is available on the Commission website²). As you mentioned that you are already in contact with the competent authorities of France and Germany, I strongly invite you to continue liaising with them and with the relevant consulted stakeholders, with substantiated contributions and data, so that your views on this important topic can be taken into account.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2019/1904, OJ L 293 14.11.2019, p. 103-104
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/1904/oj>

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/modern_biotech/stakeholder-consultation_en

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Finally, I would like to point that the Council Decision also requests the Commission to submit a proposal, if appropriate, or any other measures required as a follow-up of the study.

Yours sincerely,



Sabine Jülicher