

(SANTE)

From: SANTE CONSULT-E3
Subject: FW: Information from Norway on gene editing

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Subject: SV: Thank you!

Dear everyone,

Hope you are all well despite the ongoing COVID-crisis. Hopefully, I can bring some interesting news (see below). But first for your information: since we met in Brussels for the FDA workshop last year, I have left my position at the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board, and started in two new positions as special advisor on gene technology for The Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives and The Norwegian Cancer Society. I will continue to work with policy and regulatory affairs in both food&ag and medicine. I would therefore still be very interested in receiving information and communications from you about developments in your countries.

Then, briefly, the Norwegian government is planning to initiate a review of national GMO regulations according to the tiered regulatory framework I presented to you in Brussels. Hopefully the process will start soon but it has been slightly delayed due to COVID19. I will update you again when there are news.

However, the main reason I'm contacting you now is to alert you to a report we have just published from the research project GENEinnovate (gene editing in Norwegian crop and livestock breeding). We have performed a survey of Norwegian consumer attitudes toward gene editing in agriculture and aquaculture. The results are quite encouraging: consumers are positive towards a range of applications in both crops and livestock, but primarily those that are perceived as having clear benefits either to consumers or for sustainability. Consumers are somewhat concerned about risks,

but have fairly high trust that products developed by Norwegian breeding companies and approved by authorities are beneficial and safe. Many consumers also think it can be unethical not to use gene editing if it can solve major societal challenges, and they think that gene editing could be used for organic food production if it e.g. allows crops to be cultivated without pesticides. These are some of the main findings of the report. I'll enclose it here in case you are interested. It was published in Norway yesterday, and will be out online in English soon. However, I am circulating the report now to ensure that it reaches relevant policymakers and stakeholders as soon as possible, since it might have some bearing on policy and public debates. E.g. EPSO and EFFAB are very keen to use it as a reference in their responses to the EU Commission call for input to their study. Please feel free to forward this report to anyone you think could be interested.

Kind regards,

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██████████ gene technology

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