



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Director-General

Brussels,
SANTE/E3 [REDACTED] 2020) 546267

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Subject: Statement “Towards a scientifically justified, differentiated regulation of genome edited plants in the EU”

Thank you for your letter and for the statement on genome edited plants prepared jointly by the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina, the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and the German Research Foundation¹.

I have read with interest this statement, which provides the authors’ reflections on breeding methods, their evolution in the last 30 years and their role to contribute to a more sustainable agriculture. In the statement, the German academics and the German Research Foundation also express their views on the limitations of the EU legislation on genetically modified organisms (GMO) and provide recommendations on the need to design a more proportionate and science-based regulatory framework for GMOs.

I would like to inform you that, based on Article 241 TFEU, the Council has requested² the Commission to submit a study regarding the status of “novel genomic techniques” under Union law in light of the Court of Justice’s judgment on mutagenesis in Case C-528/16³.

¹ Our reference Ares(2020)132500

² Council Decision (EU) 2019/1904

³[http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=204387&pageIndex=\)&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=1512838](http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=204387&pageIndex=)&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=1512838)

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For the elaboration of the study, the Commission will gather contributions in a targeted consultation of the Member States and the relevant EU-level stakeholders. The list of consulted stakeholder organisations will soon be available on the Commission website⁴.

Given your knowledge and expertise, we strongly encourage you to consult the above list, contact the EU-level stakeholder organisation that best represents your interest, and participate via them in the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Bucher

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/modern_biotech_en