

**From:** [REDACTED] (SANTE)  
**Sent:** jeudi 6 février 2020 13:45  
**To:** [REDACTED]@biggerconversation.org'  
**Cc:** JUELICHER Sabine (SANTE); [REDACTED] ANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE)  
**Subject:** RE: INVITATION: Gene-edited Animals in Agriculture EU Perspectives roundtable 2020, 24 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED] Dear [REDACTED]

We apologise for the time taken to respond to your kind invitation. Unfortunately our busy agendas do not all us to travel and participate in your roundtable on 24. March 2020. We wish you a successful event, and are happy to receive the outcome if that is possible for you.

We thank you very much for your understanding,

*Best regards*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] *Biotecnology*  
DG SANTE/E/3  
Health & Food Safety



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**From:** [REDACTED]@ciwf.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 12:08 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (SANTE) [REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu>  
**Subject:** FW: INVITATION: Gene-edited Animals in Agriculture EU Perspectives roundtable 2020, 24 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

I am sending this reminder for a special roundtable on Gene-edited Animals in Agriculture.

The roundtable is co-hosted by A Bigger Conversation (an initiative of Beyond GM) and Compassion in World Farming EU and will include stakeholders representing a broad spectrum of disciplines and points of view.

Gene editing technology in agriculture is now extending beyond plant species into a variety of different farm animals.

Biotechnologists argue that it can help improve animal welfare and even yields and may have a role to play in a sustainable and 'climate friendly' livestock sector. As such, they believe that gene-editing should be viewed as an extension of normal animal breeding.

Animal welfare and a number of consumer groups are unconvinced by this argument; and the 2018 European Court of Justice ruling means that new breeding techniques such as gene editing are legally considered genetic engineering and therefore must be regulated – and labelled – as such.

Gene editing of animals – especially those intended for human consumption – raises more than just regulatory issues however. There are also inevitable practical and ethical considerations that too often are left out of the discussion.

In addition, the European Green Deal proposed by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen aims to create a prosperous and sustainable European Union fit for a world where resources are finite, populations are growing and climate change is a reality. It is, therefore, a good time to convene and discuss different approaches to rearing livestock, and where these sit in the vision for a greener Europe. The role of gene-edited livestock within the Commission President's proposed 2030 EU vision for sustainable food systems – 'from farm to fork' should also be considered.

To this end we are hosting a day-long event where a range of stakeholders can interact and explore this issue from regulatory, but also practical, environmental, alternative and values-based perspectives.

**This timely meeting follows on from a successful roundtable on this topic in the UK in 2019 and participation is by invitation only.**

The aim of the meeting, which will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule, is to encourage a better understanding between groups and individuals that often do not communicate on this issue.

The overarching objectives of the meeting are to discuss:

- What need does gene editing fulfil in farm animal husbandry?
- How does gene-edited livestock fit within the proposed European New Green Deal and the 'Farm to Fork Strategy'?
- What are the ethical concerns around gene-edited livestock?
- What are the alternatives to gene-edited livestock?
- How should gene-edited animals in agriculture be regulated?
- How should the research, growth and development of gene-edited animals be monitored – and by whom?

The organisers will distil the findings of the day into a briefing a briefing paper which will be made available to participants and via the web.

Event details are as follows:

**Event**

Gene Edited Animals in Agriculture – EU Perspectives

**Date**

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Time**

11am to 5pm (arrivals from 10.30am)

**Venue**

Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Tweekerkenstraat 47, 1000 Brussels

**Chair**

To be confirmed

The attached agenda is not fixed but is indicative of the schedule we propose and the kinds of issues we hope to cover over the course of the day. It is a valuable opportunity to bring differing perspectives together, to acknowledge differences but also to look for points of agreement and to bring context, and narrative, into discussions that can often be polarised and sterile.

We sincerely hope you can attend and ask that you RSVP as soon as possible to this email address indicating your availability and, if you are attending, any dietary preferences/requirements you may have. **If you are not able to attend, please feel free to suggest a colleague to participate in the roundtable in your place.**

With best wishes,

[Redacted signature]

Organizers:

[Redacted name]

Beyond GM/A Bigger Conversation

[abiggerconversation.org](http://abiggerconversation.org)



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