



**STELLA KYRIAKIDES**  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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Brussels,

Dear Honourable Members,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 6 February 2020, where you welcome the European Green Deal as a strategy to address climate change, protect biodiversity, ensure a sustainable use of resources and preserve and restore our ecosystem.

In your letter, you call upon the European Commission to take up your concerns on authorisations of genetically modified organisms (GMO) as expressed in the European Parliament's objections. You also ask the Commission to ensure that the study on new genomic techniques requested by Council Decision 2019/1904 does not question the ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU on mutagenesis and takes into account the public interest.

I would like to assure you that I have taken good note of your concerns. [REDACTED]

Authorisations of GMOs are based on positive opinions by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and fulfil the objectives of the GMO legislation, namely the protection of human health, animal health and the environment. GMO assessment by EFSA is comprehensive, and widely recognised as a global standard in this respect. Furthermore, with the new Transparency Regulation ((EU) 2019/1381 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019), there will be greater transparency in EFSA's scientific assessment of GMOs.

Tilly Metz MEP  
Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP  
Günther Sidl MEP  
Anja Hazekamp MEP  
Eleonora Evi MEP

European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz, 60  
1047 Brussels

I am confident that this will help increase society's acceptance and trust that the EU authorisation system is effective in ensuring our food is safe. Looking at the future, I believe the Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States should be open to explore the role of biotechnology and its potential to contribute to sustainable and safe agri-food systems. To this effect, the study requested by the Council on new genomic techniques provides an opportunity to assess these techniques and their use, including potential benefits and possible concerns.

The study will focus on the state-of-play on implementation and enforcement of the GMO legislation as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the EU. It will deliver comprehensive information on the developments of new genomic techniques, including an overview of current and future scientific and technological developments in new genomic techniques.

As you are aware, the study includes Member States' and targeted stakeholder consultations aimed at gathering technical and substantiated contributions on various relevant aspects. For this purpose, my services have prepared questionnaires for the contributions of Member States and stakeholders. I would like to reassure you that these questionnaires are comprehensive, balanced and open to cater for different interests and to avoid any bias.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet you in the near future and discuss in depth the concerns you have raised.

Yours sincerely,

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