



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY


Deputy Director General

Brussels, 23 January 2018

**MINUTES OF THE FOOD SAFETY PILLAR MEETING OF 16 JANUARY 2018**

Participants:



<p></p> <p><b>2. Points for discussion/decision</b></p> <p><b>2.1. Modern biotechnologies – SANTE’s challenges and way forward</b></p> <p>The Food Pillar discussed the planning of future work on new breeding techniques, following especially the ruling of the European Court of Justice in spring 2018. DG SANTE should not engage in more legal interpretation/regulatory activities without a clear political mandate from the College, all the more knowing that the matter is not in the Commission's current work plan until the end of his mandate. However SANTE can and should launch the 4 first (but not the 5<sup>th</sup>) exploratory initiatives proposed in the background note, namely:</p> <p>(1) send a mandate to EFSA on risk assessment of SynBio organisms/products and of gene drive-modified organisms;</p> <p>(2) send a mandate to the Scientific Advice Mechanism for a follow up opinion to the explanatory note on new techniques in agricultural biotechnologies;</p> <p>(3) send a mandate to the European Group of Ethics for a state of the art opinion on ethical issues;</p> <p>(4) gather information on main potential actors and on economic considerations.</p> <p>A note informing the cabinet about these actions should be prepared.</p> <p>GMOs/NBTs should also be among the areas analysed (pros &amp; cons) in the context of the Timmerman's Task Force on subsidiarity, proportionality and "doing less more efficiently". It is a striking example of a complex matter where the balance between the need for EU action versus the</p>	<p>Dir E to prepare a note to Cabinet by 26 February.</p> <p>Dir E to include NBTs in SANTE's input to the Timmermans' Task Force.</p>
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political price for such action have to be thoroughly evaluated.



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