From: < @land.gov.sk>

Sent: vendredi 21 décembre 2018 09:33

To: SANTE CONSULT-E3; (SANTE)
Cc: @enviro.gov.sk;

@uksup.sk

**Subject:** Follow-up PAFF meeting 03/12/2018 on new mutagenesis techniques

Attachments: F 002 18 Ziadost o registraciu.pdf

Importance: High

Dear dear EC colleagues,

Following the discussion at the latest PAFF meeting on 3rd of December, I would like to provide you with the updated information on the steps taken in the Slovak Republic regarding the ECJ ruling dated July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Department of Variety Testing (DVT), at the Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture (CCTIA), who is the competent authority for the registration of new varieties, pursuant to the obligations set out in the Art.4(4) of the Council Directive No 2002/53/EC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species, has updated the Application Form for variety registration (please see the attachment "Ziadost o registraciu"). The question on the techniques of mutagenesis is put in place. Moreover, the DVT had contacted the applicants for registration, as well as those whose varieties have already been registered to the List of registered varieties of the Slovak Republic, are listed as the varieties within Clearfield, Clearfield Plus and Express Sun technologies or were included in the state variety trials in 2018, in order to obtain information whether the varieties already registered or the varieties tested fall within the jurisdiction of the ECJ ruling in Case C 528/16. According to the findings, we will take further steps.

When it comes to the contained use of the GMOs, we are aware of research institutions whose research activities are classified under Class 1 and are working also with the techniques of mutagenesis (in the grounds of basic research, with no intention to continue with the research in the form of release into the environment). These institutions are under regular inspection just as other research institutions working with the GMOs.

As we have written previously the SAM advice states that there is heterogeneity within the NBT and some similarities between some NBT and some conventional breeding techniques as well as some established techniques of genetic modification. So logically, the ECJ ruling might be applied also to other NBT. Bearing this in mind, we are of the opinion, that these techniques shall be listed on the Community level in order to avoid the fragmentation of the Common market. We would appreciate if Commission takes this into consideration in order to help the MSs to react to the ECJ ruling in the same way and not to divergent from the GMOs legal framework.

Rest of the information already provided by the Slovak Republic remain valid.

In the end let me wish you wonderful Christmas time and all the best to the New Year!

Looking forward to the cooperation next year!

Best regards,

Department of Food Safety and Nutrition | Section of Food Industry and Trade



Dobrovičova 12 | 812 66 Bratislava | Slovak Republic

tel.: +421 | mobile: +421

<u>Pland.gov.sk</u> | <u>www.mprv.sk</u>

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