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Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 21 November 2018, co-signed with 10 other organisations representing Food and Feed Coalition, and addressed to President Juncker, concerning the application of the EU GMO legislation on new mutagenesis techniques following the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)¹¹. President Juncker has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I have taken note that you consider it urgent to adapt the legislative framework to scientific progress. I would first like to clarify that there are no plans to present a new legislative proposal on GMO legislation under the current College of Commissioners.

This does not mean that we remain inactive. My services are working with all Member States to ensure that the legislation, as interpreted by the Court, is properly implemented. In that context, it is clear that the operators, within and outside the EU territory, remain responsible for ensuring that products which are placed on the market are safe and comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.

My services are also gathering Member States' views on the consequences of the Court ruling, including its impact at national level.

¹¹ Case C-528/16, *Confédération paysanne and Others*, Judgement of 25 July 2018, ECLI:EU:C:2018:583.



To complement our action, I would encourage you and the other co-signatories to engage actively in dialogues with national regulators as well as with stakeholders, including consumers and farmers, on the potential risk and benefits of products developed with new breeding techniques. I remain convinced that concrete examples would be more useful to foster public confidence and acceptance than scientific arguments on the safety of new technologies.

It is important that such dialogues also cover ethical, legal, societal and economic considerations.

I can confirm my strong interest in this debate and my commitment to hold dialogues that go beyond the regulatory status of new technologies and focus on the way new products could help address societal challenges, such as climate change or reduction of use of pesticides, without negative consequences on health and environment protection. For that purpose however, I would need to be able to present concrete examples.

Yours sincerely,

