

From: [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Sent: mercredi 30 janvier 2019 17:10
To: [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (SANTE)
Subject: BTO Meeting with Sugar beet industry representatives
Attachments: Sugar beet value chain - position on new breeding techniques.pdf

BTO Meeting with Sugar beet industry representatives,
24 April 2018, Brussels.

Sugar beet industry participants:

[REDACTED], FTI Consulting
[REDACTED], International Confederation of European Beet Growers (CIBE)
[REDACTED], SesVanderhave
[REDACTED], Südzucker
[REDACTED], KWS SAAT SE

Commission Participants:

SANTE.E3: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
AGRI.G4: [REDACTED]

The sugar beet industry coalition had asked for the meeting to present a position paper, signed by 7 companies and CIBE, on the 'Role of plant breeding innovation in the sugar beet value chain' (attached). They underlined that plant diseases are a major concern for the industry and that gene editing could speed up the breeding process to increase resistance to for example the virus Rhizomania. They were of the opinion that certain types of gene editing, where the end result is what could occur through natural mutations, should not be regulated as GMOs. Their concerns related to the effect of the burdensome regulatory procedures on research and innovation in Europe.

Further to the Commission's questions, the coalition explained the structure of the sugar beet industry and expanded which traits they were hoping to develop using gene editing, such as disease resistance and nitrogen use efficiency.

The Commission took note and referred to the upcoming Court judgement which is expected to clarify certain aspects of the applicability of the GMO legislation to mutagenesis techniques.