



Brussels,
TRADE.DGA1.D.3/ [Art. 4.1(b)]

MEETING REPORT
EU-US TECHNICAL DIALOGUE ON PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION,
12 JUNE 2019

The US recalled that their priority in the dialogue was to normalise trade in biotechnology products as a follow up to the 2006 WTO case, with the goal to reduce GMO approval delays in the EU and facilitate mutually beneficial trade. The US welcomed recent positions expressed by Commissioner Andriukaitis on biotechnology, the efficient handling by the Commission of risk-assessed GMO applications, and the adoption of a number of EFSA opinions on GMO applications in recent months. COM stressed the increase of soybeans imports from the US as a sign of the absence of significant trade barrier. The US welcomed the increase in soy trade.

Both sides confirmed their agreement that this dialogue is a good channel to exchange information on biotechnology policy developments in both the EU and the US.

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The US enquired about the July 2018 CJEU ruling on new mutagenesis techniques and any follow-up activities. The Commission informed that it was working together with the Member States to ensure that GMO law is implemented in line with the Court's clarification.

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COM requested more information on regulatory competences in the US in the field of biotechnology. The US referred to the Obama administration's Update to the US Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology launched in 2017⁴. The US informed about the publication and SPS notification⁵ of a USDA-APHIS proposed rule (comments due 5 August). US indicated that FDA is developing guidance to help developers assess whether their foods are safe, based on contributions to a Request for Comments issued in January 2017. Draft guidance should be released in 2019. Finally, the US announced that President Trump signed an Executive Order on 11 June⁶, calling inter alia for regulatory streamlining by all relevant agencies with a view to ensure that regulation is proportionate to the risks, avoids unjustifiable distinctions across products, and facilitates the development of products with significant health, agricultural or environmental benefits. The Executive Order also mandates USTR to develop an international strategy to remove unjustified trade barriers and expand markets for products of agricultural biotechnology.

[Out of Scope]

[Art 4 1(b)]

³ [Out of Scope]

⁴ https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/2017_coordinated_framework_update.pdf

⁵ G/SPS/N/USA/3082.

⁶ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-modernizing-regulatory-framework-agricultural-biotechnology-products/>