

From:
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 4:39 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Meeting request: status of New Plant Breeding Technologies under EU GMO-regulation
Importance: High

Dear

Next Thursday Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Acting Director General for the Environment, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, will meet with Mr. Miko, Deputy Director General, DG SANCO. As indicated we would like to discuss new plant breeding technologies, plans/proposals to regulate them, to what extent EU GMO regulation applies, etc. Please find below some more background.

The new breeding techniques are important for the Netherlands - these breeding technologies allow breeders to develop new crops faster compared to traditional breeding methods. Some breeders claim that their technique does not result in a GMO, and hence, that the EU GMO legislation is not applicable. This would be beneficial for them. However, whether or not these techniques are GMO techniques is not evident and clarity is needed. The Commission is now working on her view on the status of the techniques taking into account the EU reports that have been published. For the Netherlands, safety of the techniques used is an important condition for an exemption, therefore we are glad EFSA has recently published two opinions. We would like to discuss when the Commission is planning to share her views with the Member States, and how she is planning to shape the process in order to reach an EU decision.

Apart from that, we would like to thank the Commission for the recently laid down threshold for non-approved GMO's in feed and would like to be informed about the time schedule for a threshold for non-approved GMO's in food.

Before meeting with Mr. Miko Mr. Von Meijenfeldt had another appointment. It is not sure whether Mr. Von Meijenfeldt will be able to make 3 pm. Would it be possible to meet half an hour later, at 15h30?

Best regards,

Counsellor
Head of Environment and Nature Policy Section
Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union