



Attn. Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis (Member of the European Commission, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety)

1st December 2014

Re: request for a meeting with the NBT Platform

Dear Commissioner,

Firstly, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. I would like to wish you and your team success for the next five years.

As you may be aware, the European plant breeding sector has been playing a leading role in the development of new methods of plant breeding - the so called 'new breeding techniques' (NBTs) - which offer the advantage of developing desired plant characteristics at a far more rapid pace than conventional breeding technologies, whilst contributing to preserve natural resources & the environment. The application of NBTs on the EU market is however hampered due to the absence of legal certainty as to if, and how these techniques should be regulated at EU level.

We however understand that the European Commission is committed to remedy this situation, by adopting a legal analysis which aims to clarify the status of these techniques with regard to the GM legislation (i.e. Directive 2001/18/EU on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms).

As part of the The NBT Platform, which is a coalition of SMEs, large industry representatives and members of prominent academic and research institutes aiming at bringing legal clarity on the issue of NBTs, I am glad that the European Commission is about to propose some concrete solutions in order to clarify the status of these techniques. During a bilateral meeting that we had on 22 September with the Deputy Director General of DG SANCO Mr. Miko, we were reassured of the Commission services' commitment to act swiftly on this issue.

Mr Miko also recommended us to organize a bilateral meeting with you: the objective of this meeting would be to bring to your attention the issue of NBTs as well as to present the main activities performed by our Platform. This meeting may also give us the opportunity to present you the particular views of our Platform on the issue of NBTs and to learn more on what your position is on this particular topic. We were considering having such a meeting in the upcoming weeks, based on your availabilities.

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I thank you very much beforehand for the attention you may give to our request for a meeting, and remain at your disposal should you have any particular question in that respect and/or in relation to the activities performed by the NBT Platform.

Sincerely yours,

the NBT Platform
Schuttelaar & Partners

Cc: Ladislav Miko (DG SANCO Deputy Director General),
(DG SANCO)