

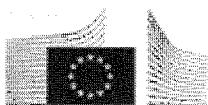
services will express their opinions during the formal ISC procedure. Asked for clarification on the benefits for consumers of these technologies.

Schuttelaar & Partners informed that the use of NPBTs makes the breeding process faster which lowers production costs, results in environmental benefits and more sustainable production methods. Some of the examples of NPBTs with tangible consumer benefits are drought resistant crops, crops with vitamin A content.

Conclusions/next steps: DG SANCO is chef de file on NPBTs. So far, no discussion has taken place on this subject between SANCO and other services, as work is still ongoing on the classification of these techniques and there is no agreed line yet within DG SANCO on the possible approach to be taken. I was reassured by my SANCO counterparts that the trade angle will be taken into account when deciding on the COM line to take. An inter-service consultation on this subject will be launched in the second half of the year. TRADE will have to ensure that any measure/solution proposed will not result in trade disruptions and that we avoid possible problems of asynchronous authorisations for NPBTs' derived products. The fact that detection is not possible for most of the techniques (except ZFN-3 technology, cisgenesis/intragenesis and floral dip) would make traceability impossible and could, in the worst case scenario, result in a similar situation we are facing on the animal cloning issue. I will keep you in the loop on future developments on this issue, together with a more detailed analysis of the problem once more data is available, including regulatory approaches taken by our trading partners (at this stage experience with the regulation of crops obtained by NPBTs is very limited globally).

Best regards,

[4.1(b)]



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