

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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There is extensive knowledge on the safety of new genomic techniques (NGTs) in particular targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis. The European Food Safety Authority and many scientific bodies concluded there are no new hazards for health or the environment, including natural ecosystems specifically linked to the modifications produced by these NGTs. NGTs can also support agricultural diversity through improved plants and the use of underutilised or local species¹.

Based on this evidence, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on plants obtained by certain NGTs². On 3 December 2025, the Parliament and the Council provisionally agreed on the proposal, which provides for robust monitoring of environmental, safety and socioeconomic impacts of NGT plants.

The co-legislators also provisionally agreed on measures to avoid negative impacts of patents on farmers: a voluntary code of conduct by patent owners with commitments regarding the amicable settlement of disputes with farmers in cases of unintentional minor presence of patented plants in their fields, and provisions to monitor and assess the impacts of patents on farmers' access to seeds, the right to use farm-saved seeds, litigation in case of accidental infringement and competition in the breeding sector.

When adopted, the regulation provides for a comprehensive legal framework that protects consumers and the environment with requirements adapted to risks. NGT plants that, after verification, are found equivalent to natural or conventional plants will be subject to the provisions of EU law intended to address any safety issues of conventional plants. NGT plants not equivalent to conventional plants will remain subject to risk assessment as genetically modified organisms.

¹ The impact assessment accompanying the Commission legislative proposal for a regulation on plants obtained by certain NGTs contains the relevant references to the scientific evidence underpinning the proposal:

https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f1142e86-43df-4791-9df2-563e696c59cf_en?filename=gmo_biotech_ngt_ia_report.pdf.

² Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 COM/2023/411 final.