

EN

E-005008/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.3.2026)

The scientific evidence¹ on which the Commission proposal² was based, notably from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), confirms that plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs) do not pose new hazards compared to conventionally bred plants and that some of the modifications obtained through them can also occur naturally or through conventional breeding. This justifies a proportionate approach based on the different risk profiles of NGT plants and is fully in line with the precautionary principle. A requirement to label as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) plants obtained by certain NGTs that are equivalent to conventionally bred ones would not be justified. No such requirement exists for GMO plants obtained by random mutagenesis. Seed labelling will enable supply chains to exclude plants obtained with NGTs, with information also available in public registers and variety catalogues.

The provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators on 3 December 2025 requires the Commission to establish a programme for monitoring of intended and unintended impacts of NGT plants on human and animal health and the environment, including on biodiversity, and impact on environmental, economic and social sustainability and on organic agriculture.

The provisional agreement ensures a high level of safety for human and animal health and the environment by keeping NGT plants that could not have been obtained conventionally subject to GMO legislation. To ensure that NGTs benefit all key users and stakeholders, the Commission will assess the impact of patents on plant breeding, breeders' access to genetic resources, and farmers' ability to obtain diverse seeds and will oversee a code of conduct on patent licensing and transparency.

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.

EFSA's scientific opinions relating to NGTs are available here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/new-genomic-techniques>.

² COM(2023) 411 final.