

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001492/26
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew)
(13 April 2026)**

Subject: Import authorisations for genetically modified crops

The Commission is committed to an ambitious simplification agenda, including cutting red tape in the implementation of EU legislation. The EU agencies' authorisation procedures, however, generate a great deal of red tape, in particular when it comes to import authorisations for genetically modified crops.

At the moment, individual properties (e.g. properties A and B) are assessed separately. When these are subsequently combined through standard breeding ('stacks'), the assessment often restarts from the beginning, resulting in the duplication of work, longer processing times and unnecessary red tape for both authorities and applicants.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. How will the Commission ensure that EU agencies — and EFSA in particular — make a tangible contribution to the simplification agenda by reducing unnecessary, overlapping assessment requirements, including for GMO stacks?
2. Will the Commission seek to establish a more streamlined and science-based approach to the assessment of GMO stacks, where existing data and previous authorisations are more widely reused, without compromising on safety?
3. Is the Commission planning to give the EU agencies a specific mandate to identify and implement 'quick wins' for the simplification of authorisation procedures, including as regards GMO imports?

Submitted: 13.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) carries out risk assessments for products under its responsibility in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the applicable EU legal frameworks.

The Commission is finalising its evaluation of EFSA's performance in the period 2017-2024, with a particular focus on the potential for simplification and administrative burden reduction where relevant.

Early findings of that evaluation have been addressed in the Commission proposals for a Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package ⁽¹⁾ and a European Biotech Act ⁽²⁾.

The requirements for risk assessment prior to the placing on the market (including imports) of genetically modified (GM) food and feed are laid down in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2013 ⁽³⁾. For stacks, this regulation requires that both the single events and their combination in a stack are assessed.

On 18 February 2026, EFSA mandated its GMO panel to issue a scientific statement on the assessment of GM stacks ⁽⁴⁾. This work builds on more than 20 years of experience in risk assessment of stacked events in GM plants and aims at streamlining the risk assessment process within the boundaries of the legal requirements.

In addition to the EFSA evaluation, the Commission has announced in its communication on A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook ⁽⁵⁾ that, as part of the Regulatory Deep Cleaning, a review of the food safety regulations looking at areas for simplification and improvement will be performed, while maintaining a high level of protection of human health. Based on this review, the Commission may propose further simplification actions.

⁽¹⁾ See at: https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/simplification-legislation_en.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 1022 final. See at: https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-regulation-establish-measures-strengthen-unions-biotechnology-and-biomanufacturing-sectors_en.

⁽³⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2013/503/oj.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2026-00110>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/simpler-clearer-and-better-enforced-eu-rulebook_en.