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E-002614/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2026)

Regulation (EU) 2026/1388¹, adopted on 17 June 2026 by the European Parliament and the Council, creates an enabling regulatory framework for plants obtained by New Genomic Techniques (NGT) so that breeders can diversify plant reproductive material to find solutions for pressing challenges that farmers face today, such as crops more resilient to climate change or requiring less fertilisers and pesticides. As set out in the Regulation, the Commission will monitor the impacts of NGT plants, including as regards the issues raised by the Honourable Member.

The Regulation distinguishes two situations on traceability. Category 1 NGT plants, considered equivalent to conventional plants and their products, do not require traceability or specific labelling. Transparency is ensured through seed labelling, a public register of NGT plants, and information in plant variety catalogues. Category 2 NGT plants and products, featuring more complex modifications, remain subject to the traceability and labelling of the Genetically modified organisms regulatory framework. The Commission will support the proper implementation of these new rules as set out in its implementation strategy².

Geographical Indications, through their legal specifications, help producers obtain fair value for their products and support rural employment, thereby safeguarding the economic viability of farmers. They also preserve traditions, while allowing producers to innovate, provided the product keeps its essential link to its origin and recognised characteristics.

Various EU-funded projects are advancing innovation in agriculture, including in the area of NGTs while addressing technical, socio-economic and other dimensions.

¹ New Genomic Techniques (NGT) Regulation - Regulation (EU) 2026/1388 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2026 on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OJ L, 2026/1388, 26.6.2026, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1388>).

² https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4c13763b-bed7-40f1-8009-56fc4b7c7a57_en?filename=ngt_leg_implementation-strategy_reg-2026-1388.pdf.