EFSA Consultative Workshop on the Draft Guidance on

SELECTION OF COMPARATORS FOR THE RISK ASSESSMENT OF GM PLANTS

March 31st 2011
9:30 - 17:00

Venue: Hotel Silken Berlaymont, 11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne, Brussels
Chair: Riitta Maijala
Director of Risk Assessment, EFSA
Moderator: Helmut Gaugitsch
Head of Unit, Land Use and Biosafety, Environment Agency Austria

9:00 - 9:30 Registration
9:30 - 9:35 Welcome by Riitta Maijala
9:35 - 9:40 Welcome address from Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (by video)
EFSA Executive Director
9:40 - 9:55 Opening of the meeting by MEP José Bové
Vice-Chair of the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

I. SETTING THE SCENE: THE CONCEPT OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE

9:55 - 10:10 Principles of risk assessment in the EU legal framework
Sébastien Goux - DG SANCO
10:10 - 10:25 GM plant environmental risk assessment: pros and cons of different approaches
Hartmut Meyer - ENSSER
10:25 - 10:40 The concept of substantial equivalence and the comparative approach
Peter Kearns - OECD
10:40 - 11:20 Discussion
11:20 - 11:45 Coffee break

II. EXCHANGING VIEWS ON EFSA DRAFT COMPARATOR OPINION

11:45 - 12:15 Presentation of the draft comparator opinion
Howard Davies - Chair EFSA Comparators WG
12:15 - 12:25 Specific FF/MC and ENV needs for selection of comparators
Joe Perry - EFSA Comparators WG
12:25 - 12:45  Discussion
12:45 - 14:00 Lunch break
14:00 - 14:35 Risk assessment of single events
   Comments received
      Antoine Messéan - EFSA Comparators WG
   Invited comments
      Pieter Windels - EuropaBio
   Discussion

14:35 - 15:10 Risk assessment of stacked events
   Comments received
      Howard Davies - Chair EFSA Comparators WG
   Invited comments
      Annick Pleysier - EuropaBio
      Andreas Heissenberger - Environment Agency Austria (AT)
   Discussion

15:10 - 15:45 Stacked events not from conventional crossing
   Comments received
      Howard Davies - Chair EFSA Comparators WG
   Invited comments
      Inge Broer - University of Rostock (DE)
      Jan W Pedersen - National Food Institute (DK)
   Discussion

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee break
16:00 - 16:35 Risk assessment when no comparator is available
   Comments received
      Harry Kuiper - Chair EFSA GMO Panel
   Invited comments
      Cristoph Then - Testbiotech (DE)
      Boet Glandorf - National Institute of Public Health and the Env. (NL)
   Discussion

16:35 - 16:50 Concluding remarks by Helmut Gaugitsch
16:50 - 17:00 Closing of the meeting by Riitta Maijala