

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 87th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 27 – 28 November 2017, Parma
(Agreed on 12 December 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Fabien Nogu , Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - B atrice Marquez-Garrido and Hans Moons (DG SANTE)
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Patrick du Jardin.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 86th Working Group held on 23-24 October 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 86th Working Group meeting held on 23-24 October 2017 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 21 November 2017².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-RX-007 (Maize NK603 x MON 810) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00028](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-RX-008 (Maize 1507 x NK603) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00029](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403) ([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-94 (Cotton GHB614 x LLCotton25 x MON 15985) ([EFSA-Q-2011-00134](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-133 (Maize MZHGOJG) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00583](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-141 (Cotton COT102)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00271](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00398](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-137 (Maize GA21 x T25)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00775](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124 (Maize MON87411)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00101](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. AOB

6.1 Quality criteria for protein expression data.

The methodology and data reporting for the levels of newly expressed proteins produced in GM plants was discussed in the frame of developing an Explanatory note to guidance on protein expression. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

11-12 January 2018, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 86th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 23 – 24 October, Parma
(Agreed on 21 November 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (TELE), Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- Béatrice Marquez-Garrido and Hans Moons (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 85th Working Group held on 3 October 2017 via TELE/WEB

The minutes of the 85th Working Group meeting held on 3 October 2017 via Tele/WEB were agreed by written procedure on 17 October 2017².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-RX-006 (Sugar beet H7-1) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00026](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-UK-2007-42 (Cotton MON 88913 x MON 15985) ([EFSA-Q-2007-086](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00079](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00210](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.5 Assessment of additional information related to genetically modified maize Bt11 x 59122 x MIR604 x 1507 x GA21 and its subcombinations

[\(EFSA-Q-2017-00669\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the mandate. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.6 EFSA-GMO-RX-002 (Oilseed rape GT73)

[\(EFSA-Q-2016-00686\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11)

[\(EFSA-Q-2016-00857\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-141 (Cotton COT102)

[\(EFSA-Q-2017-00271\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)

[\(EFSA-Q-2017-00398\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)

[\(EFSA-Q-2016-00077\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.11 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-132 (Soybean DAS-81419-2 x DAS-44406-6)

[\(EFSA-Q-2016-00253\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.12 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

[\(EFSA-Q-2016-00686\)](#)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.13 **EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-135 (Soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127)**

([**EFSA-Q-2016-00688**](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

6. AOB

6.1 RNAi off-target search methodology

7. Next meeting

27-28 November 2017, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 85th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 3 October, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 17 October 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche and Nils Rostoks
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - Béatrice Garrido-Marquez and Hans Moons (DG SANTE)
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou and Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

EFSA staff welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 84th Working Group held on 7-8 September 2017 in Marseille, France

The minutes of the 84th Working Group meeting held on 7 – 8 September 2017 in Marseille were agreed by written procedure on 21 September 2017³.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-127 (Maize 1507 x MON810 x MIR162 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2015-00841](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00686](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-135 (Soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00688](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-140 (Maize MON 87419)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00263](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00398](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. Next meeting

23-24 October 2017, Parma

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 84th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 7 – 8 September, Marseille, France
(Agreed on 21 September 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon, Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- none

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex I. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 83rd Working Group held on 15-16 June 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 83rd Working Group meeting held on 15-16 June 2017 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 28 June 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-92 (Maize 1507 x 59122 x MON 810 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2011-00116](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-RX-005 (Maize GA21)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00714](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-131 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00148](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-RX-004 (Oilseed rape Ms8, RF3, Ms8 x RF3)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00569](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-RX-002 (Oilseed rape GT73)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00686](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-121 (Soybean MON 87751)
([EFSA-Q-2014-00719](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124 (Maize MON 87411)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00714](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126 (Soybean MON 87705 x MON 87708 x MON 89788)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00548](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-132 (Soybean DAS-81419-2 x DAS-44406-6)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00253](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.11 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00077](#))

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

5.12 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-140 (Maize MON 87419)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00263](#))

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

6. AOB

6.1 RNAi off-target search methodology

Discussion on the parameters to be used for an RNAi off-target search in plants

7. Next meeting

23-24 October 2017, Parma

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Philippe Guerche declared the following interest: involved in generating comments for applications: **EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-121 (Soybean MON 87751)**.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest.

This results in the exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of aforementioned agenda item 5.6 by the concerned scientific group.

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 83rd meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 15 – 16 June, Parma
(Agreed on 28 June 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (for items 5.3, 6.1 and 6.2), Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- Beatrice Marquez-Garrido and Hans Moons

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 82nd Working Group held on 4 May 2017 via TELE/WEB

The minutes of the 80th Working Group meeting held on 4 May 2017 via TELE/WEB were agreed by written procedure on 16 May 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-117 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00765](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-118 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00926](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.3 Soybean 305423 new sequencing information mandate

([EFSA-Q-2017-00126](#))

The Working Group discussed the additional information received in the frame of this mandate.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-92 (Maize 1507 x 59122 x MON 810 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2011-00116](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00686](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.6 EFSA-GMO-RX-002 (Oilseed rape GT73)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00478](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-RX-005 (Maize GA21)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00714](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-RX-006 (Sugar beet H7-1)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00583](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-RX-007 (Maize NK603 x MON 810)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00028](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-136 (Cotton DAS-81910-7)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00707](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.11 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00857](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.12 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403)

([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. AOB

6.1 RNAi off-target search methodology

The MC WG discussed elements related to RNAi off-target *in silico* analysis

6.2 Explanatory note on next generation sequencing (NGS)

The MC WG discussed the presentation of NGS data in applications. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

7-8 September 2017, Marseille, France

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 4 May 2017, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 16 May 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Fabien Nogu  , Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - Lisa Haller
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received for Tamas Dalmay.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 81st Working Group held on 3 – 4 April 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 81st Working Group meeting held on 3 –4 April 2017 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 12 April 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-RX-004 (Oilseed rape MS8, RF3, MS8 x RF3) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00569](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-122 (Cotton GHB614 x T304-40 x GHB119) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00721](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00685](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-135 (Soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00688](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403) ([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

5.6 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00857](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.7 Soybean 305423 new sequencing information mandate
([EFSA-Q-2017-00126](#))

The Working Group discussed the mandate. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

6. AOB

None

7. Next meeting

15-16 June 2017 – Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 81st meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 3-4 April 2017, Parma
(Agreed on 12 April 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (for item 6.1), Fabien Nogu  , Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- none

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- Feed Unit: Jaime Aguilera (for item 6.2)

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 80th Working Group held on 22 March 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 80th Working Group meeting held on 22 March in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 23 March 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-RX-003 (Maize DAS-59122-7) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00526](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-118 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00926](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00079](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00210](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-115 (Soybean DAS-68416-4 x MON 89788)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00281](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.6 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00077](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-132 (Soybean DAS-81419-2 x DAS-44406-6)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00195](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-133 (Maize MZHG0JG)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00583](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-137 (Maize GA21 x T25)

([EFSA-Q-2016-00775](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

6. AOB

6.1 Next generation sequencing of GM plants

The MC WG discussed the presentation of NGS data in applications. Further discussion is needed.

6.2 Draft guidance on microbial characterization

The MC WG discussed sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the draft guidance on microbial characterisation.

7. Next meeting

4 May 2017 – TELE/WEB

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 80th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 22 March 2017, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 23 March 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Huw Jones and Christophe Robaglia
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - none
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Nikoletta Papadopoulou and Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The EFSA staff welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 79th Working Group held on 16-17 February 2017 in Parma.

The minutes of the 79th Working Group meeting held on 16-17 February 2017 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 07 March 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-121 (Soybean MON 87751) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00719](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-131 (MON 87427 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00148](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion

6. AOB

None

7. Next meeting

3-4 April 2017 – Parma

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 79th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 16-17 February 2017, Parma
(Agreed on 7 March 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (for item 6.1), Fabien Nogu  , Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- none

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 78th Working Group held on 12-13 January 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 78th Working Group meeting held on 12-13 January in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 20 January 2017⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-120 (Soybean FG72 x A5547-127) ([EFSA-Q-2013-01032](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.2 Mandate for assessment of additional information on maize Bt11xMIR162xMIR604xGA21 ([EFSA-Q-2016-00730](#))

The Working Group discussed the information received in the frame of the mandate and finalised the draft opinion.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-117 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x NK603) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00765](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-RX-002 (Oilseed rape GT73) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00478](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-RX-003 (Maize DAS-59122-7) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00526](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-122 (Cotton GHB614 x T304-40 x GHB119)

([EFSA-Q-2014-00721](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00079](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00210](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-115 (Soybean DAS-68416-4 x MON 89788)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00281](#))

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

6. AOB

6.1 Next generation sequencing of GM plants

The MC WG discussed the presentation of NGS data in applications. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

3-4 April 2017 – Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 78th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 12-13 January 2017, Parma
(Agreed on 20 January 2017)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Fabien Nogu  , Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- none

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex I. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 77th Working Group held on 28-29 November 2016 in Parma

The minutes of the 77th Working Group meeting held on 28-29 November in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 16 December 2016⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-106 (Soybean DAS-44406-6) ([EFSA-Q-2012-00368](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. The Molecular Characterisation section of the opinion will proceed to finalisation.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-114 (Cotton MON 88701) ([EFSA-Q-2013-00219](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. The Molecular Characterisation section of the opinion will proceed to finalisation.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-DE-2010-86 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x1507 x GA21) ([EFSA-Q-2010-01087](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. The Molecular Characterisation section of the opinion will proceed to finalisation.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-119 (Oilseed rape MON 88302 x Ms8 x Rf3) ([EFSA-Q-2013-01002](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. The Molecular Characterisation section of the opinion will proceed to finalisation.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124 (Maize MON 87411)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00101](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.6 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126 (Soybean MON 87705 x MON87708 x MON89788)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00548](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00077](#))

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-122 (Cotton GHB614 x T304-40 x GHB119)
([EFSA-Q-2014-00721](#))

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-RX-004 (Oilseed rape MS8, RF3, MS8 x RF3)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00569](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

6. Next meeting

16-17 February 2017 – Parma

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Philippe Guerche declared the following interest: evaluation of the molecular studies of the dossier and involvement in generating comments for application: EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-106 (Soybean DAS-44406-6) and EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-114 (Cotton MON 88701). In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁶, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest.

This results in the exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of aforementioned agenda item 5.1 and 5.2 by the concerned scientific group.

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>