

Parma, 15 September 2015

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on GMO Applications Environment 2015-2018 of the Scientific Panel GMO (2015-2018)

The GMO Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on GMO Applications Environment 2015-2018. The GMO Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on GMO, which deals with questions on genetically modified organisms and genetically modified food and feed, confirmed during its 100th Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on GMO Applications Environment.

Terms of reference:

The objective of the Standing Working Group on GMO Applications Environment 2015-2018 is to support the GMO Panel in the risk assessment of GMO applications in the frame of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, Implementing Regulation (EU) No 503/2013, and Directive 2001/18/EC as well as other related activities. In order to fulfil its objective, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas:

- Ecotoxicology;
- Pest ecology;
- Pest management;
- Modeling;

¹ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

- Weed science;
- Agronomy;
- Cropping systems;
- Farm management practices;
- Botany;
- Plant breeding;
- Biometry;
- Microbial ecology;
- Environmental risk assessment of GMOs;
- Soil science.

Members:

During the 100th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on GMO, the Chair of the GMO Panel appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group Applications Environment 2015-2018. The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the GMO Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Applications Environment is available on the EFSA website².

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Members States and stakeholders, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers (when applicable), those collected through public calls for data, as well as those collected by EFSA itself. As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on GMO Applications Environment is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate 3 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Panel on GMO (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific output, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on GMO.

SIGNED

Juliane Kleiner
Head of the Scientific Evaluation of Regulated Products Department (*a.i.*)

² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>