

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON  
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**  
162<sup>nd</sup> Plenary meeting



13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

09:00-12:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 22 March 2024

**Location:** Teleconference

**Attendees:**

○ Panel Members:

Ewen Mullins (chair), Jean-Louis Bresson, Tamas Dalmay, Michelle Epstein, Leslie George Firbank, Philippe Guerche, Jan Hejatko, Francisco Javier Moreno, Hanspeter Naegeli, Fabien Nogué, Nils Rostoks, Jose Juan Sanchez Serrano, Giovanni Savoini, Eve Veromann and Fabio Veronesi

○ Hearing Experts<sup>1</sup>:

None

○ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

DG SANTE: Alexandre Huchelmann (for item 6.2), Olga Orlova and Mara Sgroi

○ EFSA:

NIF Unit:

Ana Afonso, Michele Ardizzone, Giacomo De Sanctis, Antonio Fernández Dumont, Andrea Gennaro, Aina Belen Gil Gonzalez, Tilemachos Goumperis, Paschalina Grammatikou, Sara Jacchia, Dafni Maria Kagkli, Paolo Lenzi, Aleksandra Lewandowska, Ana Martin Camargo, Franco Maria Neri, Pietro Piffanelli, Tommaso Raffaello, Marta Rodrigues and Reinhilde Schoonjans

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## 3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence<sup>2</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>3</sup>, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

## 4. Report on written procedure since the 161<sup>st</sup> Plenary

### 4.1 Agreement of the minutes of the 161<sup>st</sup> Plenary meeting held on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The [minutes](#) of the 161<sup>st</sup> plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertsselection.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)



## 5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion/adoption

### 5.1 Application for authorisation of genetically modified maize MON 94804 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Bayer CropScience LP GMFF-2022-10651.<sup>4</sup> (AP182)

Maize event MON 94804 expresses the GA20ox\_SUP microRNA miRNA that down-regulates the expression of two endogenous gibberellic 20 oxidase (*ZmGA20ox*) genes, *ZmGA20ox3* and *ZmGA20ox5*. This results in the reduction of gibberellic acid levels in the maize stalk, leading to a reduction of internode length and consequently reduced overall plant height. Maize MON 94804 is the first GM event assessed by EFSA that does not express any newly expressed protein, because the intended trait is due to the RNA interference only. The scope of application GMFF-2022-10651 is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation in the European Union.

The GMO Panel revised the draft opinion, and where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. The GMO Panel adopted the opinion, which will be published on the [EFSA website](#) and in the [EFSA Journal](#).

### 5.2 Application for renewal of genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 and part of its subcombinations in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 from Bayer Agriculture BV and Corteva Agriscience Belgium BV GMFF-2022-9170.<sup>5</sup> (RX027)

Following the joint submission of dossier GMFF-2022-9170 under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Bayer Agriculture BV and Corteva Agriscience Belgium BV, the GMO Panel was asked to deliver a scientific risk assessment on the data submitted in the context of the renewal of authorisation application for the herbicide tolerant and insect resistant genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 and 8 out of 10 of its subcombinations, for food and feed uses, excluding cultivation within the European Union.

The GMO Panel revised the draft opinion, and where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. The GMO Panel adopted the opinion, which will be published on the [EFSA website](#) and in the [EFSA Journal](#).

### 5.3 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 89034×1507×NK603 maize in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 from Corteva Agriscience and Bayer Agriculture BV GMFF-2022-3670.<sup>6</sup> (RX029)

Following the submission of dossier GMFF-2022-3670 under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 from Corteva Agriscience Belgium BV and Bayer Agriculture BV, the GMO Panel was asked to deliver a scientific risk assessment on the data submitted in the context of the renewal of authorisation application for the herbicide tolerant and insect resistant genetically modified maize MON 89034 × 1507 × NK603, for food and feed uses, excluding cultivation within the European Union.

The GMO Panel revised the draft opinion, and where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. The GMO Panel adopted the opinion, which will be published on the [EFSA website](#) and in the [EFSA Journal](#).

<sup>4</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2023-00106>

<sup>5</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2022-00845>

<sup>6</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2022-00868>



## 6. Update on new mandates

### 6.1 Applications

Since the last Plenary meeting EFSA received a new soybean application for food and feed uses, import and processing that does not include cultivation in the European Union, and eleven renewal applications.

- New application
  - GMFF-2023-21116 Application for authorisation of genetically modified MON 94637 soybean in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (AP188)<sup>7</sup>
  
- Renewal applications
  - GMFF-2023-21234 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 88913 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX030)<sup>8</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21220 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 88302 oilseed rape in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX031)<sup>9</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21233 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 15985 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX032)<sup>10</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21231 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 1445 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX033)<sup>11</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21232 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 531 x MON 1445 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX034)<sup>12</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21230 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 531 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX035)<sup>13</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21253 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 87769 soybean in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX036)<sup>14</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21236 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 87705 soybean in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX037)<sup>15</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21237 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 87708 soybean in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX038)<sup>16</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21251 Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 87460 maize in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX039)<sup>17</sup>
  - GMFF-2023-21250 Application for renewal of genetically modified NK603 maize in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 (RX040)<sup>18</sup>

### 6.2 Mandates

- EFSA informed the GMO Panel that on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February a mandate<sup>19</sup> was received from the European Parliament requesting a scientific opinion on recent studies on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (NGTs plants proposal).<sup>20</sup> The mandate requests EFSA to complete the scientific opinion by July 2024.

<sup>7</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00054>

<sup>8</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00131>

<sup>9</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00133>

<sup>10</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00139>

<sup>11</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00144>

<sup>12</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00146>

<sup>13</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00147>

<sup>14</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00152>

<sup>15</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00153>

<sup>16</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00154>

<sup>17</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00165>

<sup>18</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00166>

<sup>19</sup> <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00178>

<sup>20</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0411>



The GMO Panel discussed the request from the European Parliament and a work plan . The cross-cutting<sup>21</sup> working group of the GMO Panel will prepare a draft report to be discussed in the upcoming Plenary meetings.

## **7. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC**

### **7.1 Scientific Committee**

Since the 161<sup>st</sup> GMO Plenary no further Scientific Committee took place. The next one will be held on the 10-11 April 2024 and the feedback will be reported at the next GMO Plenary meeting.

### **7.2 European Commission**

The representatives of the EC informed the GMO Panel on their ongoing activities, including approval procedures for applications for which the GMO Panel has delivered a scientific opinion.

### **7.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups**

The GMO Panel was updated on discussions of transversal relevance that took place in the last working groups molecular characterisation (MC), comparative risk assessment and ERA (CompERA) and food and feed (FF). In particular, the items discussed were the activity conducted on the PMEM by CompERA WG and on some of the additional information discussed by the FF WG.

## **8. Any other business**

None

## **9. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via teleconference.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-06/applications-cross-cutting.pdf>