SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM

175th GMO Panel Plenary meeting

10 December 2025
09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 23 December 2025

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Josep Casacuberta (chair), Francisco Barro, Albert Braeuning, Michelle M Epstein, Thomas Frenzel, Jean-Luc Gallois, Frits Koning, Ruud de Maagd, Antoine Messéan, F Javier Moreno, Fabien Nogué, Giovanni Savoini, Alan H Schulman and Christoph Tebbe

- Hearing Experts[1]:
Ian Dewhurst (item 5.1)

- European Commission:
DG-SANTE: Alexandra Manafova and Mara Sgroi

- EFSA:
NIF Unit: Ana Afonso, Michele Ardizzone, Martina Bonatti, Alice Branchi, Giacomo De Sanctis, Antonio Fernández Dumont, Arianna Ferrari, Andrea Gennaro, Tilemachos Goumperis, Sara Jacchia, Dafni Maria Kagkli, Paolo Lenzi, Aleksandra Lewandowska, Ana Martin Camargo, Aldo Mendoza, Franco Maria Neri, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Tommaso Raffaello and Reinhilde Schoonjans

FDP Unit: Claudia Parisi (item 6.1)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Eve Veromann.

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[2] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management,[3] EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Panel 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.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex I.

[1] As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups": https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf
[2] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[3] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf

4. Report on written procedure since the 174th Plenary

4.1 Minutes of the 174th Plenary meeting

The minutes of the 174th GMO Panel Plenary meeting held on 29-30 October 2025 were agreed by written procedure on 14 November 2025.

5. Scientific outputs for discussion and possible adoption

5.1 GMFF-2022-6595 (AP176) Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean MON 94313 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Bayer CropScience LP EFSA-Q-2022-00575

Soybean MON 94313 was produced by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation using a single transformation vector to introduce genes encoding the DMO, PAT, FT_T.1 and TDO proteins to confer tolerance to dicamba-, glufosinate-ammonium-, 2,4-D- and mesotrione-based herbicides respectively.

The scope of application GMFF-2022-6595 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 GMFF-2024-21774 (AP190) Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean GMB151 x DAS-44406-6 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by BASF Agricultural Solutions Seed US LLC EFSA-Q-2024-00330

The two-event stack soybean GMB151 × DAS-44406-6 was produced by crossing to combine two single soybean events, GMB151 and DAS-44406-6. Event GMB151 expresses Cry14Ab-1, conferring resistance to plant parasitic nematodes, and HPPD-4, providing tolerance to HPPD-inhibitor based herbicides. Event DAS-44406-6 expresses PAT, AAD-12, and 2mEPSPS, providing tolerance to glufosinate-ammonium- 2,4-D and glyphosate-based herbicides respectively.

The scope of the application GMFF-2024-21774 is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation within the EU.

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 GMFF-2023-21253 (RX036) Application for renewal of genetically modified soybean MON 87769 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Bayer Agriculture BV EFSA-Q-2024-00152

Soybean MON 87769 expresses the Δ6 desaturase protein (PjΔ6D) and Δ15 desaturase (NcΔ15D) proteins to modify the lipid profile of the extracted oil. Following the submission of application EFSA-GMO-UK-2009-76 and the publication of the EFSA scientific opinion, the placing on the market of soybean MON 87769 for a) foods and food ingredients containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM soybean, b) feed containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM soybean, and c) products containing this GM soybean or consisting of

it for any other use than (a) and (b), excluding cultivation in the EU, was authorised by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/686.

In 2024, the applicant asked the European Commission to renew the authorisation for the placing on the market of soybean MON 87769 and submitted application GMFF-2023-21253 in support of their request. The GMO Panel assessed the application in accordance with Articles 11 and 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and the relevant EFSA guidelines.

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.

5.4 GMFF-2023-21236 (RX037) Application for renewal of genetically modified soybean MON 87705 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Bayer Agriculture BV EFSA-Q-2024-00153

Soybean MON 87705 expresses the *FAD2-1A* and *FATB1-A* gene fragments resulting, through RNA interference in the decreased levels of the endogenous fatty acid Δ12-desaturase (FAD2) and palmitoyl acyl carrier protein thioesterase (FATB) enzymes and in turn, in an increased oleic acid phenotype. Soybean MON 87705 also expresses the CP4 EPSPS protein to confer tolerance to glyphosate-based herbicides. Following the submission of application EFSA-GMO-NL-2010-78 and a request to the GMO Panel from the EC to assess the safety of soybean MON 87705 oil for commercial frying, and the publication of the EFSA scientific opinions, the placing on the market of soybean MON 87705 for a) foods and food ingredients containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM soybean, b) feed containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM soybean, and c) products containing this GM soybean or consisting of it for any other use than (a) and (b), excluding cultivation in the EU, was authorised by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/696.

In 2024, the applicant asked the European Commission to renew the authorisation for the placing on the market of soybean MON 87705 and submitted application GMFF-2023-21236 in support of their request. The GMO Panel assessed the application in accordance with Articles 11 and 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and the relevant EFSA guidelines.

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.

6. Scientific topics for discussion

6.1 Requirements for stack applications

Two or more GM single events can be stacked by crossing to produce a stacked GM event. In the European Union a risk assessment is required for these products. It is also a pre-requisite that each single event is positively assessed.

Experts of the GMO Panel and WGs are discussing how to optimise the current data requirements for GM stacked events maintaining scientific excellence in the risk assessment and high level of protection for humans, animals and the environment.

The GMO Panel was updated on the recent discussions that took place at the cross-cutting (XC)[4] working group. The preliminary criteria identified to optimise data requirements for the assessment of interactions were presented and discussed. The GMO panel will request EFSA to start a self-task mandate on this topic. The activity will be carried out by the XC working group.

[4] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-07/applications-cross-cutting_3.pdf#13th%20meeting,%2021st%20October%202025

6.2 GMFF-2023-21132 (AP192) Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean COR23134 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Corteva Agriscience B.V. EFSA-Q-2024-00570

Soybean COR23134 was produced by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation using a single transformation vector to introduce genes encoding the Cry1B.34.1, Cry1B.61.1, IPD083Cb proteins to confer resistanct to sertain lepidopteran pests and the GM-HRA protein to confer tolerance to ALS-inhibiting herbicides.

The scope of application GMFF-2023-21132 is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation in the European Union.

The progress made in the risk assessment by all working groups was presented.

6.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-160 Application for authorisation of genetically modified oilseed rape NS-B50027-4 submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Nufarm B.V. EFSA-Q-2019-00572

Oilseed rape NS-B50027-4 was produced by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation to introduce genes to express the omega-3 long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (ω3 LC-PUFAs) docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), docosapentaenoic acid (DPA) in seed oil and the phosphinothricin-N-acetyltransferase (*pat*) gene as selection marker and to confer herbicide tolerance to glufosinate-ammonium-based herbicides.

The scope of application EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-160 is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation in the European Union.

The progress made in the risk assessment by all working groups was presented.

7. Update on new mandates

7.1 Applications

No new applications since last meeting.

7.2 Mandate

No new mandates since the last meeting.

8. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

8.1 Scientific Committee

No feedback was provided due to time constraints.

8.2 European Commission

The representatives of the EC informed the GMO Panel on their ongoing activities.

8.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

No feedback was provided due to time constraints.

8.4 GMO Scientific Network.

No feedback was provided due to time constraints.

9. Any other business

None

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 and 5 February 2026 online.

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting

With regard to this meeting, Prof. Francisco Barro declared the following interest: Participation in two publicly funded projects aiming to develop gene editing tools and strategies for targeted applications in cereal crops. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence[5] and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management[6], and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a conflict of interest for the expert concerned.

[5] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf
[6] https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-2024.pdf