

29 - 30 April 2026
09:00-17:00 / 09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 18 May 2026

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
Francisco Barro, Albert Braeuning, Josep Casacuberta (chair), 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, Christoph Tebbe and Eve Veromann.

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Olga Orlova, 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, Reinhilde Schoonjans and Sophie van der Vlugt.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.
No apologies were received.
Giovanni Savoini did not participate in agenda points 1,2,3,4,5.1,5.2,5.3,5.4.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Panel members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², 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 matters discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the Panel members at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Report on written procedure since the 177th Plenary

The [minutes](#) of the 177th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 19 March 2026.

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

¹ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/decision-ed-on-competing-interest-management-25-11.pdf>



5.1 Application for authorisation of RF3 *Brassica juncea* for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by BASF Agricultural Solutions (**AP158**) EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-158 [EFSA-Q-2019-00412](#)

Canola Quality (CQ) *Brassica juncea* RF3 was developed by breeding, crossing a *B. juncea* line with *B. napus* RF3. The original *B. napus* RF3 parental line was obtained by *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of oilseed rape using a single transformation vector to introduce the *pat/bar* gene conferring tolerance to glufosinate ammonium containing herbicides and the *barstar* gene coding for Barstar protein, which is part of a breeding system. The scope of the application 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 and the GMO Panel revised the draft opinion and, where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. The opinion will be proposed for possible adoption at one of the upcoming GMO Plenary meetings.

5.2 Application for authorisation of soybean MON 94313 x MON 89788 for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Bayer CropScience LP (AP187) GMFF-2023-17394 [EFSA-Q-2023-00641](#)

The two-event stack soybean MON 94313 x MON 89788 was produced by crossing to combine the two single soybean events MON 94313 and MON 89788.

Soybean event MON 94313 expresses DMO, PAT, FT_T.1 and TDO proteins, providing tolerance to dicamba-, glufosinate-ammonium-, 2,4-D- and mesotrione-based herbicides respectively.

Soybean event MON 89788 expresses CP4 EPSPS protein, providing tolerance to glyphosate-based herbicides.

The scope of application MON 94313 x MON 89788 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. If no other questions are identified during the assessment, the opinion will be proposed for discussion and possible adoption at one of the upcoming GMO Plenary meetings.

5.3 Application for authorisation of oilseed rape NS-B50027-4 for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by Nufarm B.V. (AP160) EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-160 [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 (ω 3 LCPUFAs) 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.

5.4 Self-Task mandate on a scientific statement regarding the assessment of GM plants containing stacked transformation events. [EFSA-Q-2026-00110](#)

The draft of the scientific statement prepared by the Cross Cutting Working Group³ was presented to the GMO Panel. The GMO Panel revised the draft statement and, where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. The statement will be proposed for possible adoption at the upcoming GMO Plenary meeting.

³ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-07/applications-cross-cutting_3.pdf



- 5.5** GMFF-2025-35594 (**RX050**) Application for renewal of genetically modified maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 and its sub-combinations in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. [EFSA-Q-2025-00532](#)

The application for renewal was presented at the 176th GMO Plenary⁴. On the 25 February additional data was requested. The Panel discussed the additional data received and defined the next steps to progress the risk assessment of the renewal application of maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21. Further discussion is needed.

6. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

6.1 Upcoming activities of the GMO Panel

The Panel discussed the main challenges faced during the first part of its mandate. A number of relevant issues were identified that can be tabled for future discussion and action. The Panel also discussed the potential impact on its workplan once the legislative procedure on the regulation of plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products is completed. The regulation will provide for EFSA to develop guidance within two years from the date of the entry into force of the Regulation.

6.2 Plant protein sources in animal production systems

EFSA gave a presentation outlining the key role of plant-based protein sources in feeding both farmed and companion animals. Trends in the importation and use of the various sources were presented, with a focus on soybean-derived feeds. The presentation was followed by a Plenary discussion

7. Update on new Mandates

7.1 Applications

- GMFF-2025-37093(RX051) Application for renewal of genetically modified maize DAS-40278-9 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 Corteva Agriscience LLC [EFSA-Q-2026-00211](#)

7.2 Mandate

- New information on genetically modified maize MON 89034 (Notification of updated N-terminal sequence information for Cry2Ab2)

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

8.1 Scientific Committee

Since the last GMO Plenary there were no Scientific Committee meetings, but the Chair of the GMO Panel anticipated the topics tabled for discussions at the upcoming meeting⁵.

8.2 European Commission

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

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2026-02/Minutes%20176th%20GMO%20Panel%2004_Feb%202026_PUB.pdf

⁵ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/130th-plenary-meeting-scientific-committee>



8.2 GMFF-2023-21253 (RX036) Scientific opinion on renewal of genetically modified soybean MON 87769. [EFSA-Q-2024-00152](#)

b) The Panel agreed to clarify its recently adopted opinion on the assessment of genetically modified soybean MON 87769 for renewal authorisation in relation to its recommendations for post market monitoring in section 3.6 (EFSA-Q-2024-00152)⁶ following a clarification request from the European Commission. The amended opinion was adopted by the Panel which will be republished on the [EFSA Journal](#).

8.3 Working Groups⁷ of the GMO Panel

The 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), food and feed (FF) working group.

8.4 EFSA

a) EFSA informed the Panel about the upcoming 21st GMO Network meeting⁸ that will be held in EFSA premises (Parma-Italy) on the 4-5 June 2026.

b) EFSA informed the Panel experts that until the 15 of May is open the expression of interest for a procurement on the preparatory support for the evaluation of toxicity studies supporting the GM food and feed safety.⁹

9. Any other business

9.1 Calendar 2027

The GMO Panel approved the proposed calendar for the GMO Panel plenary meetings in 2027.

- 3-4 February online
- 17-18 March Parma
- 12-13 May Parma
- 29-30 June online
- 20-21 September online
- 27-28 October Parma
- 1 December online optional

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17-18 June 2026, via teleconference.

⁶ EFSA GMO Panel, 2026. Assessment of genetically modified soybean MON 87769 for renewal authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 (dossier GMFF-2023-21253). EFSA Journal, 24(1): e9845. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2026.9845> .

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels/gmo#working-groups>

⁸ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/21st-meeting-gmo-network>

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/tender-details/47772e43-657f-4e2c-8707-d2a6ad2265c9-EXA>