

17 - 18 June 2026  
09:00-16:00 / 09:00-16:00  
MINUTES - Agreed on 1 July 2026

**Location:** Online

**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 and Eve Veromann.
  
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:  
EC: Mara Sgroi
  
- EFSA:  
NIF Unit: Ana Afonso, Michele Ardizzone, Martina Bonatti, Alice Branchi, Giacomo De Sanctis, Antonio Fernández Dumont, Andrea Gennaro, Tilemachos Goumperis, Sara Jacchia, Dafni Maria Kagkli, Paolo Lenzi, Aleksandra Lewandowska, Ana Martin Camargo, Aldo Mendoza, Franco Maria Neri, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Giulia Pelli, Tommaso Raffaello and Reinhilde Schoonjans.  
FDP Unit: Silvia Federici and Claudia Parisi

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.  
Apologies were received from Christoph Tebbe.

## 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>1</sup> and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management<sup>2</sup>, 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 178<sup>th</sup> Plenary

The [minutes](#) of the 178<sup>th</sup> Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 18 May 2026.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/independence-policy-2024.pdf)

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



## 5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

### 5.1 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 Group<sup>3</sup> 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 GMO Panel adopted the statement, which will be published on the EFSA [website](#) and in the [EFSA Journal](#).

### 5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2019-158 (AP158) Application for authorisation of RF3 *Brassica juncea* for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 by BASF Agricultural Solutions [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 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-2025-33580 (RX047) Application for renewal of genetically modified soybean FG72 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Syngenta Crop Protection AG. [EFSA-Q-2025-00233](#)

Soybean FG72 expresses the 2mEPSPS and HPPD W336 proteins to confer tolerance to glyphosate-based and to isoxaflutole-based herbicides respectively. Following the submission of application EFSA-GMO-BE-2011-98 and the publication of the EFSA scientific opinion, the placing on the market of soybean FG72 for products containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM soybean, excluding cultivation in the EU, was authorised by Commission Implementing Decision 2016/1215 of 22 July 2016. In 2025, the applicant asked the European Commission to renew the authorisation for the placing on the market of soybean FG72 and submitted application GMFF-2025-33580 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 outputs for discussion

### 6.1 GMFF-2025-34192 (AP197) Application for authorisation of soybean DAS-44406-6 x FG72 for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Syngenta Crop Protection AG [EFSA-Q-2025-00294](#)

Genetically modified soybean DAS-44406-6 x FG72 was developed by conventional crossing to combine two single events: DAS-44406-6 and FG72. The two-event stack soybean expresses the AAD-12, 2mEPSPS, PAT and HPPD W336 proteins to confer herbicide tolerance to 2,4-D-, glyphosate-, glufosinate-based and HPPD-inhibiting herbicide products, respectively.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-07/applications-cross-cutting\\_3.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-07/applications-cross-cutting_3.pdf)



The scope of the application GMFF-2025-34192 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. However, the reply to the last additional data request was received during the Plenary and it was not possible to adopt the opinion. It was agreed that the Unit and the GMO Panel will assess this information and, if no other questions are identified during the assessment, the opinion will be proposed for possible adoption by written procedure or during one of the next GMO Plenary meetings.

## 7. Other scientific topics for discussion

### 7.1 To report the scientific committee discussion on new approaches methodologies (NAMs)

Following the thematic discussion on new approach methodologies (NAMs), which took place on 8 May during the 130th Plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee,<sup>5</sup> and the adoption by the European Commission on 1 June of the roadmap towards phasing out animal testing for chemical safety assessment, the GMO Panel considered the relevance of this topic for GMO risk assessment. Toxicological studies, both acute and chronic, currently rely on animal testing, the GMO Panel therefore expressed a strong interest in the discussion and its willingness to contribute to the related activities. Experts from the Working Group on Food and Feed of the GMO Panel provided preliminary feedback on a number of questions, including how NAMs are currently used in GMO risk assessment, whether harmonised guidance across EFSA Panels is needed, and where the main bottlenecks for NAM implementation lie. To date NAMs have been primarily considered in the EFSA GMO Panel's scientific opinion on protein safety assessment, limiting the need for animal studies to cases where they are strictly necessary. However, there may be opportunities for broader application of NAMs within GMO risk assessment. The Panel agreed that further discussion is required and that the topic should be tabled at one of its forthcoming meetings, possibly involving experts from EFSA's Advisory Group on NAMs.

### 7.2 Updates on NGTs

The regulation for plants obtained by NGTs was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 17 June 2026.<sup>4</sup> The GMO Panel held a discussion on the next steps for the regulation implementation required from EFSA. EFSA will develop guidance for RA of Category 2 NGT plants clarify data requirements for verification of category 1 NGT and practical arrangements for applicants. The regulation will be in force 20 days after its publication on the EC official journal and will be implemented two years after.

## 8. Update on new Mandates

### 8.1 Applications

- GMFF-2026-37615 (RX052) Application for renewal of genetically modified Bt11 x 59122 x MIR604 x 1507 x GA21 maize and part of its sub-combinations in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 Syngenta Crop Protection AG [EFSA-Q-2026-00251](#)
- GMFF-2026-37491 (RX053) Application for renewal of genetically modified MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127 soybean in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 Bayer CropScience LLC [EFSA-Q-2026-00309](#)
- GMFF-2026-37373 (RX054) Application for renewal of genetically modified GHB119 cotton in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 BASF Agricultural Solutions US LLC [EFSA-Q-2026-00310](#)

### 8.2 Mandate

- None

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1388/oj>



## **9. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panel/EFSA/EC**

### **9.1 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 meeting<sup>5</sup>.

### **9.2 European Commission**

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.

### **9.3 Working Groups<sup>6</sup> 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.

### **9.4 EFSA**

EFSA informed the Panel about the 21<sup>st</sup> GMO Network meeting<sup>7</sup> held in EFSA premises (Parma-Italy) on the 4-5 June 2026.

## **10. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 16-17 September 2026.

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

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels/gmo#working-groups>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/21st-meeting-gmo-network>