

16 - 17 September 2026
09:00-18:00 / 09:00-16:00
MINUTES - Agreed on 2 October 2026

Location: EFSA, Parma

Attendees:

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

○ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Ilaria Ciabatti, Olga Orlova (online) and 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, Aldo Mendoza, Franco Maria Neri, Nikoletta Papadopoulou,
Giulia Pelli, Tommaso Raffaello, and Reinhilde Schoonjans.

EFSA/CSO: Yann Devos (item 6.1)

EFSA/ENREL: Clementine Lallier (item 10.1)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Vice-chair welcomed the participants.
No apologies were received.

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 179th Plenary

4.1 Minutes of the 179th Plenary meeting

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>



The [minutes](#) of the 179th Panel plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 19 March 2026.

**4.2 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. (AP197)
GMFF-2025-34192 [EFSA-Q-2025-00294](#)**

The scientific opinion of soybean DAS-44406-6 x FG72 was adopted by written procedure on 6 July 2026

5. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

**5.1 Application for authorisation of maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MON 89034 x NK603 maize and its sub-combinations for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Syngenta Crop Protection AG. (AP199)
GMFF-2025-333624 [EFSA-Q-2025-00378](#)**

Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MON 89034 x NK603 was produced by crossing to combine four single maize events expressing the following proteins: Cry1Ab, Cry1A.105, Cry2Ab2 and Vip3Aa20 to confer protection against certain lepidopteran pests; CP4 EPSPS and CP4 EPSPS L214P to confer tolerance to glyphosate-based herbicide; PAT to confer tolerance to glufosinate-based herbicides and PMI used as selectable marker.

The scope of the application is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation in the European Union. The scope if the application covers the four-event stack maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MON 89034 x NK603 and all its sub-combinations independently of their origin.

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

Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 expresses the following proteins: Cry1Ab and Vip3Aa20 conferring protection against certain lepidopteran pests, mCry3A conferring protection against certain coleopteran pests, mEPSPS and PAT conferring tolerance to glyphosate- and glufosinate-based herbicides respectively, and PMI used as a selectable marker. Following the submission of application EFSA-GMO-DE-2009-66 and the publication of the EFSA scientific opinion, the placing on the market of maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 and genetically modified maize combining two or three of the events Bt11, MIR162, MIR604 and GA21 for products containing, consisting of, or produced from this GM maize, excluding cultivation in the European Union, was authorised by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1685³ with some specific conditions.

In 2025, the applicant asked the European Commission to renew the authorisation for the placing on the market of maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x GA21 and its sub-combinations, submitting application GMFF-2025-35594 in support of their request.

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](#).

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1685>



5.3 Statement of the Panel on new information on genetically modified maize MON 89034 **[EFSA-Q-2026-00304](#)**

Maize MON 89034 expresses two insecticidal proteins, Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2, to confer protection against certain lepidopteran pests. This event was previously assessed by the GMO Panel as a single event and as part of several stack applications.

On April 2026, the European Commission requested EFSA to evaluate new N-terminal amino acid sequence information, structural modelling and bioinformatic analysis which revealed that the Cry2Ab2 is expressed in maize in two variants (Cry2Ab2.820 and Cry2Ab2.820.1) differing by one N-terminal amino acid.

The GMO Panel revised the draft opinion and, where appropriate, questions were raised and addressed throughout the different sections. However, the reply to a recent request of clarification was not received 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.

5.4 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](#)**

Soybean MON 94313 × MON 89788 was developed by crossing to combine two single events: MON 94313 and MON 89788. The two-event stack expresses the DMO, PAT, FT_T.1, TDO and CP4 EPSPS proteins to confer tolerance to dicamba-, glufosinate-, 2,4-D-, mesotrione- and glyphosate-based herbicides, respectively. 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](#).

6. Other scientific topics for information/discussion

6.1 Regulation (EU) 2026/1388

The discussion was divided in four parts.

The Unit presented the mandates received in the frame of the new Regulation as listed under item 8.2 and outlined the EFSA workplan and related engagement activities.

A Panel member provided a comprehensive overview of the state of the art regarding gene-edited, cisgenic and intragenic plants. The presentation highlighted the similarities and differences among these techniques and compared them with conventional plant breeding. It also covered the different methods used to deliver genome-editing components and their respective characteristics. The presentation concluded with a summary of the criteria for categories 1 and 2 established by Regulation (EU) 2026/1388.

The European Commission provided an overview of the main provisions of Regulation (EU) 2026/1388 on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products. The regulation will apply as from July 2028 and the Commission presented the key elements of the implementation strategy published on 13 July 2026, including the preparation of supporting legislation and guidance for operators.



The Panel and the Unit reported on the preliminary discussions held within the different working groups on the risk-assessment principles applicable to Category 2 NGT plants.

**6.2 Application for authorisation of soybean COR23134 for import in the European Union submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 by Corteva Agriscience LLC (AP192)
GMFF-2023-21132 [EFSA-Q-2024-00570](#)**

Soybean COR23134 was produced by *Agrobacterium-mediated* transformation to introduce genes encoding the Cry1B.34.1, Cry1B.61.1, IPD083Cb proteins to confer protection against certain lepidopteran pests and the GM-HRA protein to confer tolerance to ALS-inhibiting herbicides. The scope of application is for food and feed uses, import and processing and does not include cultivation in the European Union.

The Panel discussed the progress made in the risk assessment by the working groups following the submission of the additional information the applicant provided. The opinion will be proposed for possible adoption at one of the upcoming GMO Plenary meetings.

The scientific opinion was also used to verify the impact of the activity carried out by the Panel to reduce the length of the opinion and improve readability (see item 6.1 of the 176th GMO Plenary⁴). Changes were made in various sections of the scientific opinion.

6.3 EFSA strategy 2034

The item was not discussed.

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

7.1 Scientific Committee

The Vice-chair of the GMO Panel reported the discussions at the last Scientific Committee meeting⁵ and ongoing EFSA activities.

7.2 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.

7.3 Working Groups⁶ 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.

7.4 EFSA

EFSA informed the Panel about the upcoming 3rd meeting of the New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) sub group of the risk assessment of GMO Network that will be held online on the 1st of October 2026.⁷

7.5 Other relevant meetings

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/176th-plenary-meeting-gmo-panel>

⁵ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2026-08/131st_sc_plenary_minutes.pdf

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

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/3rd-meeting-new-genomic-techniques-ngts-subgroup-risk-assessment-genetically-modified>



Members of the Panel reported about a meeting held on the 4th of September at the Spanish Ministry of agriculture, fishery and nutrition.⁸

8. Update on new Mandates

8.1 Applications

- Application for authorisation of genetically modified maize COR121 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 Corteva Agriscience LLC (AP207) Maize COR121 GMFF-2025-36435 [EFSA-Q-2026-00328](#)
- Application for authorisation of genetically modified soybean COR1591 in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. (AP208) GMFF-2026-38898 [EFSA-Q-2026-00371](#)

8.2 Generic Mandates

- Scientific and technical support in the preparation of the delegated act for the NGT regulation. (Art 31) [EFSA-Q-2026-00374](#) Under mandate M-2026-00081
- Scientific and technical support in the preparation of the implementing act of the NGT regulation. (Art 31) [EFSA-Q-2026-00375](#) Under mandate M-2026-00081
- Guidance on the verification and risk assessment of plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products. (Art 31) [EFSA-Q-2026-00502](#) Under mandate M-2026-00114
- Guidance document on the determination of newly expressed protein levels in GM plants. (Art 31) [EFSA-Q-2026-00454](#)

9. Any other business

9.1 Omnibus package and Biotech act

The two legislative proposals concerning the Omnibus package and the Biotech Act were adopted by the European Commission in December 2025. They aim to streamline the EU regulatory framework, accelerate risk assessment procedures and foster innovation while maintaining high safety standards. Both proposals are being discussed by the co legislators (European Parliament and Council). An ENREL-led cross-functional task force is assessing the potential impacts on EFSA's mandate, scientific activities, resources and working arrangements. The Panel experts were informed about the potential impact of these proposals and the EFSA monitoring activities being conducted by the task force.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be open to observers⁹ and will be held on 28-29 October 2026.

⁸ https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/prensa/ultimas-noticias/detalle_noticias/el-ministerio-de-agricultura--pesca-y-alimentaci-n-acoge-la-jornada-sobre-las-nuevas-tecnicas-gen-micas--ntg---una-oportunidad-para-el-sector-agroalimentario-espa-ol/d488e96c-2253-43a1-8eee-538d292f736c

⁹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/181st-plenary-meeting-gmo-panel-open-observers>