

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 96th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 26-27 November 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 18 December 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche, Jan Hejatko (TELE), Fabien Nogué (TELE), Nils Rostoks and Jose Juan Sanchez Serrano
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Béatrice Marquez-Garrido and Alexandre Huchelmann
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos, Tommaso Raffaello, Matthew Ramon and Marleen Renders.
- **Others:**
 - None

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened Interests declared by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No conflicts related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 95th Working Group held on 16 October 2018 in Parma

The minutes of the 95th Working Group meeting held on 16 October 2018 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 25 October⁴ 2018.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-135 (Soybean MON 87708 x MON 89788 x A5547-127)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00688)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.2 FSA-GMO-NL-2016-128 (Soybean MON 87751 x MON 87701 x MON 87708 x MON 89788)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00009)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON87427 x MON87460 x MON89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00686)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-131 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00252)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-109 (Oilseed rape 73496)

(EFSA-Q-2012-00617)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

**5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-136 (Cotton DAS-81910-7)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00707](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

**5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2018-151 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x
MIR162 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)
([EFSA-Q-2018-00457](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

7. Next meeting

21-22 January 2019, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 95th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 16 October 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 25 October 2018 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche, Jan Hejatko, Simon Moxon (TELE for item 5.3), Fabien Nogué (TELE), Nils Rostoks and Jose Juan Sanchez Serrano
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Béatrice Marquez-Garrido
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Tommaso Raffaello, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos, Marleen Renders and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened Interests declared by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No conflicts related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 94th Working Group held on 6-7 September 2018 in Parma

The minutes of the 94th Working Group meeting held on 6-7 September 2018 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 26 September⁴, 2018.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-143 (Brassica napus MS11 x Rf3) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00424](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.2 FSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00857](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2018-148 (Soybean DP305423 x MON87708 x MON89788) ([EFSA-Q-2018-00146](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00398](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-145 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 87411 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00487](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2018-150 (Maize DP4114 x MON810 x MIR604 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2018-00370](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

7. Next meeting

26-27 November 2018, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 94th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 6-7 September 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 26 September 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche, Jan Hejatko, Simon Moxon (TELE), Fabien Nogu   (TELE), Nils Rostoks and Jose Juan Sanchez Serrano
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Alexandre Huchelmann
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Tommaso Raffaello, Marleen Renders and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened Interests declared by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No conflicts related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 93rd Working Group held on 14-15 June 2018 in Parma

The minutes of the 93rd Working Group meeting held on 14-15 June 2018 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 2 July 2018⁴.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00079)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00210)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-133 (Maize MZH0JG)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00583)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126 (Soybean MON 87705 x MON 87708 x MON 89788)

(EFSA-Q-2015-00548)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-DE-2011-103 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x 1507 x 5307 x GA21)

(EFSA-Q-2012-00069)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 **EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-128 (Soybean MON 87751 x MON 87701 x MON 87708 x MON 89788)**

([EFSA-Q-2016-00009](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.7 **EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-139 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 87460 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 87411 x 59122)**

([EFSA-Q-2017-00115](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 **EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-144 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x MON 87411)**

([EFSA-Q-2017-00442](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 **EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-145 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 87411 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)**

([EFSA-Q-2017-00487](#))

The Working Group did not discuss this application due to time constraints

5.10 **EFSA-GMO-DE-2018-149 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x MON89034 x 5307 x GA21)**

([EFSA-Q-2018-00292](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

7. Next meeting

15-16 October 2018, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 93rd meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 14-15 June 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 2 July 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - Javier Moreno for item 6.2
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Hans Moons and Alexandre Huchelmann
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 92nd Working Group held on 23 May 2018 via TELE/WEB

The minutes of the 92nd Working Group meeting held on 23 May 2018 via TELE/WEB were agreed by written procedure on 31 May 2018².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-122 (Cotton GHB614 x T304-40 x GHB119)

(EFSA-Q-2014-00721)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00077)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00079)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00210)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-127 (Maize 1507 x MON810 x MIR162 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2015-00841)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-131 (Maize MON 87427 x MON 89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00148)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-134 (Maize MON87427 x MON87460 x MON89034 x MIR162 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00686)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11)

(EFSA-Q-2016-00857)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-143 (Brassica napus MS11 x Rf3)

(EFSA-Q-2017-00424)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)

(EFSA-Q-2017-00398)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.11 EFSA-GMO-RX-011 (Soybean MON 89788)

(EFSA-Q-2015-00101)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.12 EFSA-GMO-NL-2018-148 (Soybean DP305423 x MON87708 x MON89788)

(EFSA-Q-2018-00146)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

6. AOB

6.1 Note to guidance on protein expression

The MC Working Group Experts discussed and finalised the content of this note to guidance.

6.2 Discussion on ORFs

The MC Working Group Experts and the hearing Expert discussed the strategy for the assessment of Open Reading Frames in GMO applications. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

6-7 September 2018, Parma

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 92nd meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 23 May 2018, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 31 May 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Josep Casacuberta, Patrick du Jardin, Fabien Nogué, and Nils Rostoks
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Hans Moons and Alexandre Huchelmann
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 91th Working Group held on 16-17 April 2018

The minutes of the 91th Working Group meeting held on 16-17 April in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 04 May 2018².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-DE-2011-103 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x MIR604 x 1507 x 5307 x GA21)

([EFSA-Q-2012-00069](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-141 (Cotton COT102)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00271](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00398](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. Next meeting

14-15 June 2018, Parma

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/gmomc2018.pdf>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 91st meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 16-17 April 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 4 May 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (via TELE/WEB for items 5.8 and 5.9), Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- Hans Moons and Béatrice Marquez-Garrido (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted and an extra AOB item (6.2) was added.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 90th Working Group held on 22 March 2018 via TELE/WEB

The minutes of the 90th Working Group meeting held on 22 March 2018 via TELE/WEB were agreed by written procedure on 28 March 2018².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00079)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

(EFSA-Q-2013-00210)

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-DE-2010-86 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x 1507 x GA21)

(EFSA-Q-2010-01087)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-RX-008 (Maize 1507 x NK603)

(EFSA-Q-2017-00029)

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

² <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/gmo/gmomc2018.pdf>

**5.5 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-133 (Maize MZHGOJG)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00583](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

**5.6 EFSA-GMO-RX-009 (Soybean A2704-12)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00721](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

**5.7 EFSA-GMO-RX-010 (Cotton LLCotton25)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00814](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

**5.8 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124 (Maize MON 87411)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00101](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation section of the draft opinion.

**5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126 (Soybean MON 87705 x MON 87708 x MON 89788)
([EFSA-Q-2015-00548](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

**5.10 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-130 (Maize VCO-01981-5)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00077](#))**

The Working Group did not discuss the application due to time constraints.

**5.11 EFSA-GMO-BE-2016-138 (Brassica napus MS11)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00857](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant is needed.

**5.12 EFSA-GMO-NL-2017-143 (Brassica napus MS11 x Rf3)
([EFSA-Q-2017-00424](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

**5.13 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-136 (Cotton DAS-81910-7)
([EFSA-Q-2016-00707](#))**

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.14 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-137 (Maize GA21 x T25) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00775](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. AOB

6.1 Note to guidance on protein expression

The MC Working Group Experts discussed the content of this note to guidance. Further discussion is needed.

6.2 Technical Note to Sequencing Quality

EFSA staff provided a summary on the progress of the work of the GMO Sequencing WG. A powerpoint presentation of the current draft of the Technical Note to Sequencing Quality was briefly presented to the MC WG experts in preparation of discussion/first reading of the document at the 122nd GMO Panel meeting.

7. Next meeting

23 May 2018, TELE/WEB

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 90th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 22 March 2018, TELE/WEB
(Agreed on 28 March 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Tamas Dalmay, Philippe Guerche and Nils Rostoks
- **Hearing Experts¹:**
 - none
- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**
 - DG SANTE: Hans Moons
- **EFSA:**
 - GMO Unit: Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.
- **Others:**
 - none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 89th Working Group held on 22-23 February 2018 in Parma

The minutes of the 89th Working Group meeting held on 22-23 February 2018 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 2 March 2018².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2016-136 (Cotton DAS-81910-7) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00707](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-DE-2016-137 (Maize GA21 x T25) ([EFSA-Q-2016-00775](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-RX-008 (Maize 1507 x NK603) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00029](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

16-17 April 2018, Parma

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 89th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 22-23 February 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 2 March 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon, Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- Hans Moons and Béatrice Marquez-Garrido (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex I. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 88th Working Group held on 11-12 January 2018 in Parma

The minutes of the 88th Working Group meeting held on 11-12 January 2018 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 26 January 2018².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2011-94 (Cotton GHB614 x LLCotton25 x MON 15985)

([EFSA-Q-2011-00134](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-BE-2015-125 (Maize MON 87403)

([EFSA-Q-2015-00430](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-RX-008 (Maize 1507 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00029](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00079](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00210](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-122 (Cotton GHB614 x T304-40 x GHB119)

([EFSA-Q-2014-00721](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-109 (Oilseed rape 73496)

([EFSA-Q-2012-00617](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-DE-2012-111 (Soybean SYHT0H2)

([EFSA-Q-2012-00753](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

6. AOB

6.1 Note to guidance on protein expression

The MC Working Group Experts discussed the content of this note to guidance. Further discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

22 March 2018, TELE/WEB

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Philippe Guerche declared the following interest: involved in generating comments for applications: **EFSA-GMO-NL-2012-109 (Oilseed rape 73496).**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest.

This results in the exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of aforementioned agenda item 5.7 by the concerned scientific group.

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>

Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms Minutes of the 88th meeting of the Working Group on Molecular Characterisation

**Held on 11-12 January 2018, Parma
(Agreed on 26 January 2018)**

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**

- Josep Casacuberta, Tamas Dalmay, Patrick du Jardin, Philippe Guerche, Huw Jones, Simon Moxon (TELE, for items 5.2-5.5), Fabien Nogué, Christophe Robaglia and Nils Rostoks

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

- none

- **European Commission (EC) and/or Member States representatives:**

- Hans Moons (DG SANTE)

- **EFSA:**

- GMO Unit: Silvia Federici, Irina Olaru, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Konstantinos Paraskevopoulos and Matthew Ramon.

- **Others:**

- none

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI) filled in by the working group member invited for the present meeting.

For further details on the outcome of the screening of the ADoI or the SDoI, please refer to Annex I. Oral Declaration of Interest was asked at the beginning of the meeting and no additional interest was declared.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 87th Working Group held on 27-28 November 2017 in Parma

The minutes of the 87th Working Group meeting held on 27-28 November 2017 in Parma were agreed by written procedure on 12 December 2017².

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-123 (Maize 4114) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00850](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.2 EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-121 (Soybean MON 87751) ([EFSA-Q-2014-00719](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.3 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-124 (Maize MON 87411) ([EFSA-Q-2015-00101](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.4 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-126 (Soybean MON 87705 x MON 87708 x MON 89788) ([EFSA-Q-2015-00548](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.5 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-140 (Maize MON87419) ([EFSA-Q-2017-00263](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/gmowgs/documents/gmomcm.pdf>

5.6 EFSA-GMO-RX-007 (Maize NK603 x MON 810)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00028](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.7 EFSA-GMO-RX-008 (Maize 1507 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00029](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.8 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-112 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00079](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.9 EFSA-GMO-NL-2013-113 (Maize MON 89034 x 1507 x MON 88017 x 59122 x DAS-40278-9)

([EFSA-Q-2013-00210](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.10 EFSA-GMO-DE-2010-86 (Maize Bt11 x MIR162 x 1507 x GA21)

([EFSA-Q-2010-01087](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.11 EFSA-GMO-NL-2015-127 (Maize 1507 x MON810 x MIR162 x NK603)

([EFSA-Q-2015-00841](#))

The Working Group discussed the application and finalised the Molecular Characterisation parts of the draft opinion.

5.12 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-142 (Maize MZIR098)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00398](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion and clarification from the applicant are needed.

5.13 EFSA-GMO-DE-2017-141 (Cotton COT102)

([EFSA-Q-2017-00271](#))

The Working Group discussed the application. Further discussion is needed.

6. AOB

6.1 Note to guidance on protein expression

The methodology and data reporting for the levels of newly expressed proteins produced in GM plants was further discussed in the frame of developing an Explanatory note to guidance on protein expression. Additional discussion is needed.

7. Next meeting

22 – 23 February 2018, Parma

Annex I

Interests and actions resulting from the screening of Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) or Specific Declarations of Interest (SDoI)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the SDoI filled for the present meeting, Philippe Guerche declared the following interest: involved in generating comments for applications: **EFSA-GMO-NL-2014-121 (Soybean MON 87751).**

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁴, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest.

This results in the exclusion of the expert from any discussion, voting or other processing of aforementioned agenda item 5.2 by the concerned scientific group.

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>
⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014>