

Parma, 15 September 2015

**Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on
GMO PMEM reports 2015-2018
of the Scientific Panel GMO (2015-2018)**

The GMO Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on GMO PMEM reports 2015-2018. The GMO Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Panel on GMO, which deals with questions on genetically modified organisms and genetically modified food and feed, confirmed during its 100th Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on GMO PMEM.

Terms of reference:

Following the placing on the market of a GM plant, the applicant has a legal obligation to ensure that monitoring and reporting are carried out according to the conditions specified in the authorisation. Since 2009, the GMO Panel and its SWG on PMEM reports are tasked to assess the annual PMEM reports on GM crops cultivated in the EU, and in particular to assess the methodology. In order to fulfil its objective, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas:

- Agronomy
- Biodiversity
- Entomology
- Experimental design

¹ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

- Data collection
- Insect resistance management
- Pest management and pest ecology
- Post-market environmental monitoring of GM plants and related areas.
- Statistical analysis
- Weed science

Members:

During the 100th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Panel on GMO, the Chair of the GMO Panel appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on PMEM reports 2015-2018. The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the GMO Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on GMO PMEM reports is available on the EFSA website².

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the annual PMEM reports on GM crops cultivated in the EU, and in particular to assess the methodology. As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on GMO PMEM reports is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate 3 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Panel on GMO (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific output, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Scientific Panel on GMO.

SIGNED

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² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>