



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Food and feed safety, innovation
Director

Brussels,
SANTE E3/IC/gk (2019)2213200

Dear Mr Cappato and Mr Perduca,

Subject: New breeding techniques

Thank you for making Commissioner Andriukaitis aware of the event you organised on 5 March in front of the European Parliament to promote knowledge of new breeding techniques and their beneficial effects on agriculture and food. Commissioner Andriukaitis has asked me to reply on his behalf.

In your e-mail, you refer to the 2018 ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU on mutagenesis and raise your concerns over an anti-scientific attitude that may result in blocking beneficial applications of genome editing in plants.

The Court ruling of July last year clarified the status of organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques that have emerged since the adoption of Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms. Following the ruling, the Commission has been working with all Member States to ensure that the legislation, as interpreted by the Court, is properly implemented and enforced. Commission's services have been also gathering Member States' views on the consequences of the Court ruling, including its impact at national level.

I appreciate that stakeholders engage in constructive dialogues in particular with national authorities on potential risks and benefits of products developed with new breeding techniques and how new technologies could help address societal challenges, such as climate change or reduction of use of pesticides, without negative consequences on health and environment protection. The Commission Services are also happy to receive specific data on these aspects.

Mr Marco Cappato
Mr Marco Perduca
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However, I would like to draw to your attention that the use of the particular GM Rice in food, mentioned in your mail is not authorised in the EU and that it is the responsibility of the national competent authorities to ensure the relevant legislation (Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 and Directive 2001/18/EC) is properly enforced by all parties.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. O. Jülicher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sabine Jülicher