

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

165th Plenary meeting



2nd – 3rd July 2024

14:30-18:00 / 9:00-13:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 10 July 2024

Location: EFSA premises, Parma

Attendees:

o Panel Members:

Francisco Barro, Albert Braeuning, Josep Casacuberta, Pilar Cubas, Ruud de Maagd, Michelle Epstein (by tele), Thomas Frenzel, Jean--Luc Gallois, Frits Koning, Antoine Messéan, F. Javier Moreno, Fabien Nogué (by tele for items from 1 to 5 and 12), Giovanni Savoini, Alan H. Schulman, Christoph Tebbe and Eve Veromann.

o European Commission:

Olga Orlova (by tele) and Mara Sgroi.

o EFSA:

NIF Unit:

Ana Afonso (3rd July), Giacomo De Sanctis, Antonio Fernández Dumont, Arianna Ferrari, Andrea Gennaro, Aina Belen Gil Gonzalez, Tilemachos Goumperis, Sara Jacchia, Dafni Maria Kagkli, Paolo Lenzi, Ana Martin Camargo, Franco Maria Neri, Nikoletta Papadopoulou, Pietro Piffanelli, Tommaso Raffaello, Marta Rodrigues and Reinhilde Schoonjans.

FDP Unit:

Claudia Parisi and Elena Lannocca

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Head of the GMO Unit welcomed the participants and thanked them for their commitment towards EFSA. No apologies were received. EFSA reported the withdrawal of one appointed panel member, Ewen Mullins. He wished to all members of the 2024-2029 GMO Panel success and a fruitful exchange for the panel term ahead.

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 issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Report on written procedure since the 163rd Plenary

4.1 Agreement of the minutes of the 164th Plenary meeting held on 19th-20th June 2024

The [minutes](#) of the 164th plenary meeting were agreed by written procedure on 1st July 2024.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



5. Round table presentation of GMO Panel Members

A round table presentation of the GMO Panel members took place.

6. NIF|GMO team leaders introduce their teams

The team leaders of the EFSA team 'molecular characterisation' and 'comparative and environmental risk assessment and food and feed' introduced the staff and main expertise in the two teams.

7. Overview of the main processes

The NIF|GMO Unit introduced the overall frame for the risk assessment of GMOs by EFSA, its GMO Panel and supporting Working.

8. NIF|GMO staff meets GMO experts

The members of the NIF|GMO introduced themselves to the GMO Panel members.

9. Overview of running applications and renewals

The NIF|GMO gave an overview of the status of applications and applications for renewal received under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 currently under risk assessment.

10. Overview of running mandates

The NIF|GMO and the Chair of the GMA-WG³ gave an overview of the following mandates.

- 10.1 Developments in biotechnology, including NGT and SynBio, applied to farmed animals and aquaculture**
EFSA-Q-2023-00050
- 10.2 Mandate for the assessment of the 2022 post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) report on MON 810 cultivation**
EFSA-Q-2024-00070
- 10.3 Self-task mandate of the GMO Panel on a scientific opinion regarding protein safety assessment**
EFSA-Q-2023-00664

11. GMO Panel & GMO teams roles and responsibilities

The Head of the NIF|GMO Unit presented the respective roles and responsibilities of experts and staff throughout the risk assessment process.

12. Election of Panel chair and vice-chairs

The election of the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs took place following the guidelines laid down in the EFSA implementing rule of the Management Board concerning the establishment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups⁴. Due to

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-07/minutes-gma-ngt.pdf>

⁴ https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/paneloperation_0.pdf



technical problems, it was not possible to proceed with the online vote. The GMO Panel unanimously agreed to waive the secrecy of the ballot.

Josep Casacuberta was elected Chair of the GMO Panel; Michelle Epstein and Christoph Tebbe were elected Vice-Chairs of the GMO Panel.

13. Meeting dates: plenary and Working Group meetings in 2024-2025

The NIF|GMO Unit presented to the Panel the dates of plenary and Working Groups meetings for 2024 and 2025.

14. Update on EFSA activities on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

The NIF|GMO Unit presented an overview of the publications produced by the Unit and the GMO Panel from 2012 until now. These activities were conducted to support the European Commission and the European Parliament on the risk assessment of organisms (with focus on plants) developed by NGTs.

15. Update on new Mandates

15.1 Applications

None

15.2 Mandates

None

16. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/EFSA/ EC

16.1 Scientific Committee

None

16.2 European Commission

The representatives of the EC welcomed the GMO Panel and gave an overview of the main steps that follow from the publication of an EFSA Scientific Opinion produced by the GMO Panel until the authorisation of the product in the EU.

16.3 Scientific Panel(s) including their Working Groups

None

17. Any other business

17.1 Overview of the collaboration tools

The GMO Panel receive a brief introduction to the collaboration tools used by EFSA.

18. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 2nd – 3rd October 2024 via teleconference.