

**Question for written answer P-014731/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: New breeding techniques (NBTs) for plants

New breeding techniques (NBTs) help to push back the inherent limits of sexual reproduction in plants by facilitating interspecific crossing and improving gene transfer, the main result of which is to increase the number of plant varieties available.

As things stand, organisms obtained using such techniques are not deemed to be genetically modified organisms (GMOs) under Article 3(1) of Directive 2001/18/EC and Annex IB thereto. They are therefore not subject to the same evaluation and authorisation requirements as GMOs.

In 2007 the Commission set up a working group to determine whether NBTs come within the scope of Directive 2001/18/EC and Directive 2009/41/EC.

It announced recently that the group's work was nearing completion and that a legal opinion should be submitted before the end of 2015.

1. Can the Commission say what legal status this interpretative opinion will have?
2. If the opinion concludes that NBTs should be covered by the legislation on GMOs, will the current legislation be revised?