Amendment 110

Anja Hazekamp, Marina Mesure, Mick Wallace, Manon Aubry, Leila Chaibi, Clare Daly, Manu Pineda

on behalf of The Left Group

Report A9-0114/2024

Jessica Polfjärd

Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1) A sustainable food system is at the heart of the European Green Deal. Agroecology can provide healthy food while maintaining productivity, increasing soil fertility and biodiversity, and reducing the footprint of food production. Organic farming in particular holds great potential for farmers and consumers alike. The sector creates jobs and attracts young farmers. Organic farming also provides 10-20 % more jobs per hectare than conventional farms, and creates added value for agricultural products. To make the most of this potential, under the Green Deal's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, the Commission has set a target of 'at least 25 % of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030'.

Amendment 111

Anja Hazekamp, Marina Mesure, Mick Wallace, Manon Aubry, Leila Chaibi, Clare Daly, Manu Pineda

on behalf of The Left Group

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Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Since 2001, when Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (32), on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment was adopted, significant progress in biotechnology has led to the development of new genomic techniques (NGTs), most prominently genome editing techniques that enable changes to be made to the genome at precise locations.

Amendment

Since 2001, when Directive (1) 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (32), on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment was adopted, significant progress in biotechnology has led to the development of new genomic techniques (NGTs), most prominently genome editing techniques that enable changes to be made to the genome at precise locations. However, those newer techniques may also lead to unexpected risks and outcomes that cannot be fully predicted and that may be different compared to plants obtained by conventional breeding.

³² Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC (OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1).

³² Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC (OJ L 106, 17.4.2001, p. 1).

Amendment 112

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Proposal for a regulation Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) The European Parliament, in its reaction to the Farm to Fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentallyfriendly food system^{1a}, highlighted the precautionary principle and the need to ensure transparency and freedom of choice for farmers, processors and consumers, and stressed that any policy action on NGTs should include risk assessments and a comprehensive overview and assessment of options for traceability and labelling with a view to achieving proper regulatory oversight and should provide consumers with relevant information, including for products from third countries, in order to ensure a level playing field.

^{1a} European Parliament resolution of 20 October 2021 on a farm to fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (2020/2260(INI)), P9_TA(2021)0425)

Amendment 113
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Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a)Currently, the debate on using NGTs in plant breeding is held almost exclusively among scientists, scientific and industry organisations, and companies in the agri-food field, as well as a small number of NGOs. However, in shaping a new policy on NGTs, it is important to include the voice of citizens, not only because biotechnologies have the power to redesign life, but also because they offer the potential to reshape the practice of agriculture and the future of our food (system). The way we produce food involves questions of how we want to live on this planet and how we want to relate to other species. For the purposes of democracy, citizens need to have a say on which public values are incorporated in a new policy for NGTs.

Amendment 114

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on behalf of The Left Group

A9-0114/2024

Jessica Polfjärd

Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13) This Regulation should distinguish deleted between two categories of NGT plants.

Amendment 115

Anja Hazekamp, Marina Mesure, Mick Wallace, Manon Aubry, Leila Chaibi, Clare Daly, Manu Pineda

on behalf of The Left Group

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Jessica Polfjärd

Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14) NGT plants that could also occur naturally or be produced by conventional breeding techniques and their progeny obtained by conventional breeding techniques ('category 1 NGT plants') should be treated as plants that have occurred naturally or have been produced by conventional breeding techniques, given that they are equivalent and that their risks are comparable, thereby derogating in full from the Union GMO legislation and GMO related requirements in sectoral legislation. In order to ensure legal certainty, this Regulation should set out the criteria to ascertain if a NGT plant is equivalent to naturally occurring or conventionally bred plants and lay down a procedure for competent authorities to verify and take a decision on the fulfillment of those criteria, prior to the release or placing on the market of NGT plants or NGT products. Those criteria should be objective and based on science. They should cover the type and extent of genetic modifications that can be observed in nature or in organisms obtained with conventional breeding techniques and should include thresholds for both size and number of genetic modifications to the genome of NGT plants. Since scientific and technical knowledge evolves

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rapidly in this area, the Commission should be empowered in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to update these criteria in light of scientific and technical progress as regards the type and extent of genetic modifications that can occur in nature or through conventional breeding.

Amendment 116

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on behalf of The Left Group

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Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) All NGT plants that are not category 1 ('category 2 NGT plants') should remain subject to the requirements of the Union GMO legislation because they feature *more* complex sets of modifications to the genome.

Amendment

(15) All NGT plants should remain subject to the requirements of the Union GMO legislation because they feature complex sets of modifications to the genome.

Amendment 117 Anja Hazekamp, Marina Mesure, Mick Wallace, Manon Aubry, Leila Chaibi, Clare Daly, Manu Pineda on behalf of The Left Group

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Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16) Category 1 NGT plants and products should not be subject to the rules and requirements of the Union GMO legislation and to provisions in other Union legislation that apply to GMOs. For legal certainty for operators and transparency, a declaration of the category 1 NGT plant status should be obtained prior to deliberate release, including the placing on the market.

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Amendment 118

Anja Hazekamp, Marina Mesure, Mick Wallace, Manon Aubry, Leila Chaibi, Clare Daly, Manu Pineda

on behalf of The Left Group

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Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed (COM(2023)0411 – C9-0238/2023 – 2023/0226(COD))

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the (23)European Parliament and the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) $834/2007(^{47})$ prohibits the use of GMOs and products from and by GMOs in organic production. It defines GMOs for the purposes of that Regulation by reference to Directive 2001/18/EC, excluding from the prohibition GMOs which have been obtained through the techniques of genetic modification listed in Annex 1.B of Directive 2001/18/EC. As a result, category 2 NGT plants will be banned in organic production. However, it is necessary to clarify the status of category 1 NGT plants for the purposes of organic production. The use of new genomic techniques is currently incompatible with the concept of organic production in the Regulation (EC) 2018/848 and with consumers' perception of organic products. The use of category 1 NGT plants should therefore be also prohibited in organic production.

Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the (23)European Parliament and the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) $834/2007(^{47})$ prohibits the use of GMOs and products from and by GMOs in organic production. It defines GMOs for the purposes of that Regulation by reference to Directive 2001/18/EC, excluding from the prohibition GMOs which have been obtained through the techniques of genetic modification listed in Annex 1.B of Directive 2001/18/EC. As a result, NGT plants are and should remain banned in organic production. It is necessary to ensure that the organic sector as a whole has the means to remain GMO-free. Member States should lay down rules to ensure and enforce sufficiently wide buffer zones between organic, conventional and NGT crops. Labelling and traceability should remain in place on all NGT plants and products containing them to ensure crosscontamination to organic plants and products does not take place.

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Amendment

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and

labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1).

labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 1).