

**Question for written answer E-014424/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

José Bové (Verts/ALE)

Subject: New biotechnology techniques

In 2008, the Commission began a study into new biotechnology techniques. These emerging techniques seek to modify the genome of organisms, such as plants, with a view to giving them new characteristics. In view of EU legislation on GMOs, the question arises as to the status of products obtained using these techniques, i.e. whether or not they are subject to EU legislation on GMOs.

At the end of November 2013, the Commission stated that an analysis was under way seeking to establish whether the new techniques referred to in the working group's report did, or did not, fall within the definition of genetically modified organism laid down in Article 2 of Directive 2001/18/EC. It added that it was not possible at that stage to provide a timeframe or any indications regarding the arrangements for the Commission to publish this work¹.

- Which Commission service/s is/are responsible for carrying out this analysis?
- Is this work is being carried out by an external group appointed by the Commission, which group is it and who are its members?
- Are hearings with third parties taking place and/or have any taken place and, if so, with whom?

On 27 and 28 May 2010, a workshop on new biotechnology techniques was held by the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS). This institute is one of the seven scientific institutes of the Commission's Joint Research Centre. While the broad lines of what was discussed at this workshop were set out in a more general report on new biotechnology techniques, published in 2011², no official detailed proceedings after the fashion of the detailed proceedings of the workshop on the comparison of regulatory approaches for new techniques, held in September 2011³, appear to be available.

Can the Commission publish the official proceedings of this workshop held by IPTS in May 2010 on new biotechnology techniques?

¹ Reference article by InfOGM online since 28 November 2013.

² 'New plant breeding techniques. State-of-the-art and prospects for commercial development', Joint Research Centre, 2011.

³ 'Comparative regulatory approaches for new plant breeding techniques', Joint Research Centre, 2012.