

**Question for written answer E-006525/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jan Huitema (ALDE), Peter van Dalen (ECR) and Bas Belder (ECR)

Subject: Cisgenesis

The Commission stated, in answer to a question tabled by Jan Mulder (P-6606/2007, 9 January 2008), that a working group was being set up to determine whether new plant-breeding techniques and genetic modification techniques result in organisms which should be considered to fall under the definition of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC.

In 2012, a panel for GMOs set up by the European Food Safety Agency (ESA) concluded that cisgenesis was just as safe as conventional plant-breeding and that if the genes used in the breeding process came exclusively from the target species, the product was not a GMO.

The Commission then stated, in answer to a question tabled by Peter van Dalen (P-003194/2014, 18 March 2014), that the legal status of new plant-breeding techniques was currently being analysed to decide whether these new techniques should be considered as falling under the existing GMO legislation, and that EFSA's conclusions did not impact on this.

1. Can the Commission explain why, since Mr Mulder tabled his question in 2008, the Commission has still not managed to decide whether or not new plant-breeding techniques such as cisgenesis fall under the definition of GMO in Directive 2001/18/EC?
2. Can the Commission indicate why it is analysing the legal status of new plant-breeding techniques without taking account of the conclusions of the EFSA panel?
3. When does the Commission expect to take a decision on the status of cisgenesis?