

**Question for written answer E-002441/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission gives way to agri-food lobbyists' demands in agreeing to revive the GMO debate

The Commission's study on new genomic techniques (NGT), published on 29 April 2021, has revived the debate on genetically modified organisms (GMO). It states: 'NGT products [...] could then contribute to a more sustainable food chain.' These techniques are designed to alter the genetic make-up of organisms in order to improve their resistance to climate change. However, much to the dismay of the entire agri-food lobby, their use is not authorised under current GMO legislation.

In 2018, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that GMOs must undergo a risk assessment before being deliberately released into the environment or placed onto the market.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission intend to assess the risks associated with genome editing, given the inherent possibility of genetic error?
2. Has it decided to give way to the arguments of agri-food lobbyists to the effect that existing regulatory framework are obstacle, notwithstanding the existence of alternative solutions to climate change, such as ecotypes with naturally occurring genetic variations?