

**Question for written answer E-003643/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: New genomic techniques: research on the risks of new technologies to the environment and health

In its study on new genomic techniques (NGTs) such as CRISPR-Cas technologies, the Commission gave an overview of research and innovation funding for NGT-related projects under the Seventh Framework (2007-2014) and Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) programmes. Of all NGT-related funding, EUR 685.5 million were spent on agri-food and other bioeconomy research. Applied research seems to be the mainstay here, with 39.5 % of funding going into plant biotechnology research, 27.5 % into synthetic biology research, 20 % into micro-organisms research, and 13 % into animal-related research.

The Commission mentioned that some projects addressed regulatory and risk assessment aspects, but did not specify the amount of funding dedicated to these aspects. Research on the risks of new technologies to the environment and health is paramount to enable an informed policy discussion, and therefore must receive adequate public funding.

1. What amount of funding was distributed for research on the risks of NGTs to the environment and health between 2007 and 2020?
2. What are the main results of the research projects that dealt with the risks of NGTs to the environment and health?
3. Does the Horizon Europe programme include any dedicated budget lines to fund research on the risks of NGTs to the environment and health?