

**Question for written answer E-000267/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Deregulation of NGTs

Austria is at the forefront of GM-free agriculture and food production. Both politicians and the wider population are largely opposed to the Commission's draft regulation on the use of new genomic techniques (NGTs) in plant breeding.¹²³

1. 92 % of Austrians are calling for NGT products to be subject to the same strict controls as products derived from older genetic modification techniques, 70 % are opposed to simpler and faster approval processes for NGT products, and 94 % are calling for these products to be labelled as 'genetically modified'. According to the Commission, there is significant demand for NGT plants, but these figures clearly show that the general population is not asking for them. Can the Commission say where exactly this demand is coming from?
2. The Austrian Federal Council's EU Committee has unanimously opposed the draft regulation, in particular because it would no longer allow Member States to impose an effective ban on the cultivation of all genetically modified plants on the basis of a national decision. How does the Commission justify the abolition of the opt-out rule?
3. What is the Commission's view on the fact that the use of NGTs could lead to new dependencies on chemical and agricultural companies?

Submitted: 29.1.2024

¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-09/gmo_biotech_ngt_proposal_2023-411_en.pdf

² <https://www.handelsverband.at/presse/presseaussendungen/neue-gentechnik/>

³ https://www.parlament.gv.at/aktuelles/pk/jahr_2023/pk1147