

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

**2006/2059(INI)**

14.9.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on Biotechnology: prospects and challenges for agriculture in Europe  
2006/2059(INI)

Draftswoman: María del Pilar Ayuso González

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the fact that the Seventh Framework Programme for Research includes the application of agricultural biotechnology for non-food purposes;
2. Takes the view that biotechnology is opening up new opportunities, particularly in regions where the production of agri-foodstuffs is not proving economically viable;
3. Considers that research financed from public funds must be provided in particular to support the R & D activity of small biotechnology businesses;
4. Gives its backing to research projects designed to improve the economic viability of agriculture and non-food agricultural products (including biofuels), the sustainable production of foodstuffs and disease prevention;
5. Calls on the Commission to look into the economic, social and environmental implications of applied biotechnology, so that biotechnological production practices and products can be evaluated at every stage, from initial research to end use;
6. Urges the Member States to ban technologies that involve a threat to health and the environment, including the use of genes resistant to antibiotics for human use that may be propagated in the environment;
7. Strongly supports reducing the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers through the application of biotechnology, with special reference to avoiding the propagation of diseases due to resistance to herbicides;
8. Calls for transgenic foodstuffs to undergo compulsory testing before marketing, to establish that they are harmless before they are marketed;
9. Considers that biotechnology offers excellent opportunities for making better use of organic waste material and energy resources; expresses interest in research to look into new vegetable varieties that are adapted to adverse conditions such as drought or extreme temperatures;
10. Calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment of the present situation of the European biotechnology industry for discussion on its future.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Biotechnology: prospects and challenges for agriculture in Europe		
<b>Procedure number</b>	2006/2059(INI)]		
<b>Committee responsible</b>	AGRI		
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	ITRE 16.3.2006		
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>			
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	María del Pilar Ayuso González 20.3.2006		
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>			
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	3.5.2006	20.6.2006	12.9.2006
<b>Date adopted</b>	12.9.2006		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 38	–: 3	0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	John Attard-Montalto, Šarūnas Birutis, Jan Březina, Philippe Busquin, Jerzy Buzek, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Giles Chichester, Den Dover, Lena Ek, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Umberto Guidoni, András Gyürk, Fiona Hall, David Hammerstein Mintz, Rebecca Harms, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Anne Laperrouze, Eluned Morgan, Reino Paasilinna, Aldo Patriciello, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Herbert Reul, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Dominique Vlasto		
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	María del Pilar Ayuso González, Daniel Caspary, Neena Gill, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Edit Herczog, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Vittorio Prodi		
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>			
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>			