

PRESS RELEASE

IFOAM EU WELCOMES THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE DECISION THAT NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES WILL BE REGULATED AS GMOs.

BRUSSELS, 25 JULY 2018 – The organic food and farming movement welcomes the decision of the ECJ which clarifies that new genetic engineering techniques produce GMOs and will have to be regulated as such under the existing EU legislation.

Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU President, said: “The confirmation by the European Court of Justice that new GMOs will be subject to traceability and labelling is a huge relief for organic breeders, producers and processors, and all conventional GMO-free producers, who will be able to avoid using such GM products. This decision should ensure that the environment and consumers are protected from the potential risks of these new powerful technologies.”

“The European Commission cannot delay action anymore and now has to ensure that the EU legal framework is properly enforced by Member States. The Commission should immediately launch a research project to develop detection methods that will complement the traceability system, to ensure an adequate segregation of these new GM plants and to prevent the contamination of organic and conventional GMO-free food and feed production in Europe”, added Eric Gall, Policy Manager at IFOAM EU.

In its press release, the Court the Court considers “that the risks linked to the use of these new mutagenesis techniques might prove to be similar to those that result from the production and release of a GMO through transgenesis” and that “that the GMO Directive is also applicable to organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques that have emerged since its adoption”.

Ends.

Notes for editors:

Position of [IFOAM EU](#) and [IFOAM Organics International](#) on new genetic engineering techniques
IFOAM EU press briefing:

https://www.ifoam-eu.org/sites/default/files/ifoameu_policy_kgoo_newgmos_pressbriefing_20180719.pdf

Link to Directive 2001/18:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32001L0018&from=FR>

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IFOAM EU represents more than 190 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies



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