

EUROPEAN GMO-free Regions Network

Steering Committee meeting , 16th Mai 2018, 13:30 h to 15:30

Representation of Hesse to the EU, Room 6.29, 21 Rue Montoyer, 1000 Bruxelles

Protocol

13.30 h Welcome

Ms. Dr. Beatrix Tappeser, State Secretary at the Hessian Ministry for Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

News and Current Developments

New Website

Appeal for cooperation and support, news from network members

Statement Ms. Dr. Tappeser, Hesse

Upcoming decision of the ECJ on French case on the definition of mutagenesis.

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/documents.jsf?num=C-528/16>

Opinion attorney-general, Presentation Ms. Dr. Brandt, Hesse

Future Working Program

Organisation of GMOfree Conference 2018 Berlin

- Speakers and topics
- Resolution on CRISPR-cas und gene drives

Ms. Dr. Tappeser

Current status of the COM-proposal on revision of the comitology-procedure

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil-mobile/fiche-procedure/2017/0035\(COD\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil-mobile/fiche-procedure/2017/0035(COD))

Presentation Ms. Ehrle-Manthey

Any other business

Possible new members – *Navarra?*

Ms. Dr. Brandt

15.30 h End of the meeting

office

President of the European GMO-free Regions Network

State Secretary Dr. Beatrix Tappeser

c / o Hessian Ministry for Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

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PARTICIPANTS:

Representatives of Member Regions:

GERMANY:

Hesse: State Secretary Dr. Beatrix Tappeser,
Dr. Astrid Brandt, Ulrike Siebmann

Lower Saxony: apologized

Thuringia: Dr. Manuela Simon

ITALY:

Marche: absent

GREECE:

Eastern Macedonia: Dr. Lambros Tsourgiannis

AUSTRIA:

Upper Austria: Dr. Gerald Lonauer

Country of Salzburg: Maren Kuschnerus

CROATIA:

Croatian Regions Office: Andreja Lepen

SPAIN:

Basque Country: Luis Elizondo

UNITED KINGDOM:

Wales: Lisa Penny

FRANCE:

Nouvelle-Aquitaine: apologized

Welcome

State Secretary at the Hessian Ministry for Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Beatrix Tappeser, welcomes the participants and starts a short round of introductions. There are no amendments to the agenda.

News and Current Developments

- New Website - appeal for cooperation and support, news from network members

Ms. Tappeser presents the draft of the new website and asks for welcome messages in the languages of the regions represented in the network. These should be posted on the website, if possible with photos. Further contributions and comments are welcome. The launch of the website is scheduled for the end of May and will be announced by mail. The entire website is publicly accessible, i.e. a login is not required.

Mr. Lonauer notes that the list of declarations may not be complete and agrees to review it. The order should be adjusted so that the list starts with the latest document. Under "Documents" an additional tab for legal texts might be inserted (only EU legislation). There are no concerns about disclosing the protocols of the SC meetings on the public website.

Ms. Lepen points out that the Sisak-Moslavina region is no longer represented by her. She wants to look after a new contact person.

In France, the number of regions has decreased after the restructuring. Mr. Lonauer will have the map adjusted and tries to get more information from France.

- Upcoming decision of the ECJ on French case on the definition of mutagenesis

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/documents.jsf?num=C-528/16>

Ms. Brandt gives a presentation on the opinion of advocate-general Bobek on the questions concerning the definition of mutagenesis that were referred to the Court (Annex 1). The judgment by the European Court of Justice is to be expected during the next few months.

It is discussed whether and how the traceability and labelling of such products can be implemented if the products should receive a non-GMO status. The topic will be discussed in more detail during the network conference in September, if the judgment is available at that time.

Future Working Program

- Organisation of GMO free Conference from September 6 to 7, 2018 in Berlin

Ms. Tappeser presents the draft of a declaration "New Genetic Modification Techniques: No License for CRISPR / CAS and Gene Drives", which could be adopted in Berlin. The draft is attached to the protocol (Annex 2). Ms. Tappeser asks for feedback to the draft declaration until **June 15, 2018**.

She presents the preliminary program and points out that under the umbrella of the network conference, a workshop will also be held by the nongovernmental part of the network including ENSSER, the European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility, organized by Benny Haerlin. Ms. Tappeser, Ms. Ulrike Höfken, Rhineland-Palatinate Minister for the Environment, and Benny Haerlin will open the conference with greetings at an evening event in the Berlin representation of Rhineland-Palatinate on September 6, 2018. Prior to the opening, a meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled to take place from 16:00 to 18:00.

So far, four regions are scheduled to speak in the plenary session on September 7, 2018. Further suggestions are welcome.

Ms. Simon suggests inviting a representative of the EU Commission. Mr. Lonauer points out that information about the press contact is missing. Translations will not be provided; the only conference language is English. It is discussed to address politicians at the regional level and to invite them as potential speakers. Overall, emphasis should be put on aspects of the application and consequences of new techniques rather than on scientific aspects.

There is no representative from France in the preliminary schedule. Mr.

Lonauer agrees to ask the representative of Brittany if participation is possible.

Ms. Lepen will ask her head of department whether participation is possible as there are no ministries at the regional level in Croatia.

The draft program is attached to the protocol (Annex 3). Ms. Dr. Tappeser asks for feedback to the program also until **June 15, 2018**.

- Current status of the COM-proposal on revision of the comitology procedure

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil-mobile/fiche-procedure/2017/0035\(COD\)](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil-mobile/fiche-procedure/2017/0035(COD))

As Ms. Ehrle-Manthey is ill, Ms. Brandt is giving her presentation on the revision of the comitology procedure (Annex 4). On March 9, 2018, the Legal Service of the Council has presented a legal opinion on the proposal. It comes to the conclusion that several elements of the proposal constitute an infringement to the TEU. A modification of the voting rules, however, is not considered to breach EU primary law. In the next Council working group meeting on May 25, 2018, Member States shall be given the opportunity to present their opinion on the various amendments proposed by the COM.

Any other business

- Possible new members

Ms. Brandt points out that Navarra so far has not responded to the invitation to join the network. This is confirmed by Mr. Elizondo. Regardless, Navarra will be invited to the conference in September.

- News from Member Regions

Ms. Lisa Penny announces that she will take over another position and go back to Wales. Interviews for her current position are ongoing.

15.30 h End of the meeting

Minutes: Dr. Astrid Brandt, Ulrike Siebmann