



European Plant Science Organisation
<https://epsoweb.org>

News item

Genome editing Improving legislation and starting flagships to better address climate, environmental, food and health challenges

Informal meeting in Brussels 19.9.2019

Brussels, 4.11.2019

On 19 September 2019 EPSO invited tandems of member-scientists and policy makers from a dozen countries across Europe to an open-minded, informal meeting to assess the situation for research and development on New Plant Breeding Technologies (NPBTs) after the ruling of the ECJ in July 2018.

The difficulties in the implementation of the ruling, the possible need for changes to present legislation and the status of activities in different member states and associated countries were discussed. Flagship projects with potential field releases were a further point of consideration. There shall be a follow up meeting in early 2020.

As explained in our statement of 19.2.2019, EPSO offers to collaborate with policy makers to develop an appropriate future-ready regulation to enable the European public sector, small- and medium-sized companies and farmers to contribute more comprehensively to food and nutritional security and to use all available tools to reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. Notwithstanding the technical option retained, EPSO supports a science-based revision of the present European legislation establishing a more proportionate product-based risk assessment. EPSO is also willing to contribute to the societal debate on genome editing and to communicate in a fact-based and yet accessible manner about innovative plant science and its societal role.

Ralf Wilhelm, Ernst van den Ende and Karin Metzloff

Ralf Wilhelm, JKI / DE and co-chair EPSO Agricultural Technologies WG
Ernst van den Ende, WUR / NL and EPSO Board member
Karin Metzloff, EPSO Executive Director

Links:

- <https://epsoweb.org/working-groups/agricultural-technologies/>
- EPSO statement (endorsed by all EPSO Representatives for 197 institutes / universities), 19.2.2019: <https://epsoweb.org/download/epsoweb-statement-on-ecj-ruling-regarding-mutagenesis-and-gmo/>

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 31 countries, mainly from Europe, and 2.600 individuals Personal Members, representing over 26 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09