



First reaction

European Plant Science Organisation
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On the Advocate General's Opinion regarding mutagenesis and the Genetically Modified Organisms Directive

Brussels, 18.1.2018

The European Plant Science Organisation welcomes the Advocate General's opinion in case C-528/16 published today (18 Jan 2018) as an important step in clarifying the European Directive 2001/18/EC (on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms) concerning organisms modified by recent mutagenesis techniques that appeared after 2001. The opinion provides a general scheme to follow now by the European Court of Justice. EPSO awaits the decision of the Court of Justice of the EU foreseen to be taken and published in 2018.

This first reaction opinion was developed by Ralf Wilhelm, Joachim Schiemann, Peter Rogowsky and Karin Metzloff on behalf of the EPSO Agricultural Technology Working Group.

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Useful links

Court of Justice of the EU: Advocate General's Opinion in Case C-528/16, 18.1.2018. English Press Release: <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-01/cp180004en.pdf>;
Opinion in English:

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=198532&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=780899>

Court of Justice of the EU: Case C-528/16

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=186771&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=780899>

EC: Explanatory Note on New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology from EC's High Level Scientific Advice Mechanism, 28.4.2017

https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/pdf/topics/explanatory_note_new_techniques_agricultural_biotechnology.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

EC news alert Commission's top scientific advisers publish explanatory note on new techniques in agricultural biotechnology, 28.4.2017

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2017&na=na-280417>

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EPSO Working Group on Agricultural Technologies: www.epsoweb.org/agricultural-technologies-wogr

Statements drafted by this group and approved by the EPSO representatives are for instance:

- EPSO: [Opinion on the SAM Explanatory Note on New Techniques in Agricultural Biotechnology](#), 15.9.2017

- EPSO: [Synthetic Biology should not be confused with the application of new breeding techniques](#), updated statement, 30.8.2017
- EPSO updated statement on [Crop Genetic Improvement Technologies](#), 12.01.2017

EPSO communications: www.epsoweb.org/epsoweb/epsoweb-communications

EPSO member institutes and universities: [www.epsoweb.org/membership/members](http://www.epsoweb.org/epsoweb/membership/members)

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About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 28 European countries, Australia and New Zealand, and 3.300 individuals Personal Members, representing over 27 000 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. www.epsoweb.org