



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Safety of the Food Chain
Biotechnology

Brussels,
SANCO/KN/lh Ares (2011) 253436

To the Members of the Stakeholder SANCO Advisory Committee,
To the Stakeholders of the GMO Sector,

Subject: Consultation on Environmental Risk Assessment of GMOs

In November 2010, following a mandate from the Commission, EFSA published the guidelines on the environmental risk assessment (ERA) of genetically modified (GM) plants. Together with these guidelines EFSA also published an opinion on the assessment of potential impact of GM plants on non-target organisms (NTO).

In accordance with a similar procedure adopted during the discussion of the GM Food and Feed guidelines, the Commission intends to start the consultation period with Member States Competent Authorities and Stakeholders in order to discuss those aspects of the EFSA ERA guidelines and NTO opinion which need a further clarification.

As a 1st phase of this consultation period, we would like to invite you to send any comments you consider relevant to improve the discussion regarding the EFSA ERA guidelines and the NTO opinion.

The comments should be sent via email **by 15th April 2011** to the following contact persons: **heidi.torppa@ec.europa.eu**, with cc to **karin.nienstedt@ec.europa.eu**.

In order to facilitate the access, both EFSA documents can be downloaded from EFSA website:

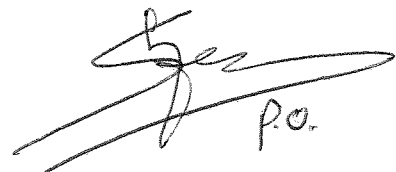
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1879.htm>

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1877.htm>

We would also like to inform you that during the plenary meeting of the Stakeholder SANCO Advisory Committee, on 14th March, the Commission will give a general presentation announcing the starting of this consultation process.

We look forward to a fruitful collaboration during this consultation process and remain at your disposal for any further query.

Yours sincerely,



Dorothee André

Email copy: Mr R.Vanhoorde, Ms G. Luvarà, Ms K. Nienstedt, Mr S. Goux,
Ms H. Torppa (DG SANCO).