

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CABINET OF COMMISSIONER TONIO BORG

The Head of Cabinet

Brussels,
Ares (2013)

Dear Dr Then,

Thank you for your letter from 14 June 2013 referring to the genetically engineered SmartStax maize (MON89034x1507xMON88017x 59122). Commissioner Borg has asked me to reply on his behalf.

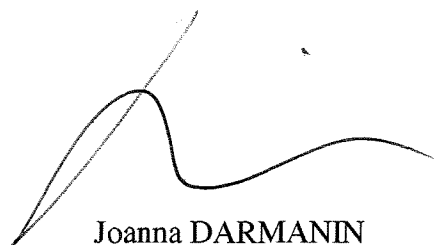
Let me begin by reassuring you that the Commission is following closely the discussions on the safety of Cry proteins and is consulting EFSA on all new scientific publications on this issue.

As the Commission already indicated to you in its letter from 18 February 2013, following the publication of your report concerning the risk assessment of this GMO, the Commission requested EFSA to assess the scientific elements of this report and the attached list of publications. In October 2011, EFSA concluded that the report by Testbiotech and the references cited therein do not present any new scientific elements that have not already been considered by the EFSA GMO panel or that would invalidate the conclusions of its previous risk assessment of SmartStax.

All scientific references in your letter of 14 June 2013, except one, have already been analysed by EFSA in the context of Member States safeguard clauses, in the EFSA scientific opinion from 2012 updating the risk assessment conclusions and risk management recommendations on the genetically modified insect resistant maize Bt11, or in the context of the internal review of MON87701x89788 soybean. In addition, the Commission has already asked EFSA to analyse the recent publication of Carman et al. (2013) and EFSA's conclusions are expected soon.

Finally, I would like to reassure you that the Commission is committed to ensuring that high standards are applied in the safety assessment and control of GMOs and whenever new scientific information becomes available, EFSA is asked to analyse it as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,



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