



Slow Food®

29 April 2026

New Genomic Techniques - Upcoming ENVI Vote - Protect farmers', breeders' and citizens' rights

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

Scheduled for May 5th, the Environment Committee will vote on the proposed legislation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs).

In this second reading vote, the Committee is asked to rubber stamp a trilogue agreement reached in December 2025. However, this agreement fails to adequately protect GMO-free farming and seed breeding and removes citizens' right to know what is in their food. As NGT traits are patented, it also exposes farmers and small seed breeders to patent infringements.

In its first reading position, the European Parliament had introduced essential safeguards such as consumer labelling, traceability, and a ban on patents, to defend the rights of European farmers, breeders and citizens alike. The outcome of the trilogue negotiations falls short of maintaining these essential safeguards. The Environment Committee should now re-introduce these crucial protections, before the proposal is finally adopted.

We urge you to stand up for the protection and freedom of choice of European farmers, breeders and citizens by defending the European Parliament's original position on consumer labelling, traceability and patents.

Safeguard traceability and labelling

Freedom of choice is a fundamental principle enshrined in the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#), encompassing among others the right to conduct business. This includes the right of European farmers, breeders and food producers to produce GMO- and NGT-free seeds and food, along with the right of citizens to choose what they eat.

In its original position the European Parliament had rightfully introduced full supply chain traceability measures and on-package labelling for all NGT products. Both are an essential prerequisite for the European agriculture and food sector, followed by effective coexistence measures and the supply of detection methods. The European food industry both from the organic and conventional sectors strongly supported the preservation of labelling and freedom of choice and called on policymakers to defend their entrepreneurial freedom (see [here](#)). This is even more important as consumers are sceptical when it comes to GM products and always want to know what they buy.

Therefore, it is crucial for the European Parliament to respect the businesses and citizens of Europe by reinstating clear traceability and labelling provisions in line with its original position.

Ensure protection from patents for European farmers and breeders

As it stands the NGT proposal would increase the consolidation of the seed industry and place a heavy burden on farmers and breeders by exposing them to infringement cases. It would hamper the development of new varieties by hindering access to genetic resources, thus accelerating further biodiversity loss (see the [joint statement](#) by more than 200 organisations) and increasing our dependency from the major US and Chinese patent holder companies at a time where the European food and agriculture sector is aiming for more autonomy.

The European Parliament has a long-standing position against patents on seeds. In February 2024, MEPs voted to restrict patents so that patent protection would not extend to genetic material that could also be obtained by conventional breeding. The trilogue agreement fails to ensure this level of protection for farmers and breeders. Patent-related provisions remain voluntary and based on good will by the industry, failing to guarantee the unrestricted use of plant material for breeding. And a [recent study](#) published by the European Commission shows that patents have an important negative impact on small and medium-sized plant breeders. Effective measures must therefore be taken now.

The Parliament must therefore stand strong and come back to the measures adopted in first reading for the protection of European farmers and breeders.

The upcoming vote is your last chance to defend European farmers, breeders and citizens from the far-reaching negative consequences of the NGT proposal for the European agriculture and food sector. The Parliament must stand up for the freedom of farmers, food producers, breeders and citizens. We count on you!

Yours sincerely,

International & European Organisations

Biodynamic Federation Demeter International

Corporate Europe Observatory

Ekō

European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding

European Non-GMO Industry Association

Friends of the Earth Europe

IFOAM Organics Europe

Save our Seeds

Slow Food

National Organisations

Austria Arche Noah Demeter Österreich Enkeltaugliches Österreich	Netherlands Biowinkelvereniging De Bolster Federatie van Agro-ecologisch Boeren Odin Foodcoop Stichting Demeter Stichting Zaadgoed Velt
Belgium BioForum vzw De Landgenoten Linked.Farm Nature & Progrès Solidagro Voedsel Anders	Norway GMO Netverket (Norwegian GMO-Network)
Denmark Biodynamisk Forbrugersammenslutning Den Grønne Ungdomsbevægelse Foreningen Det Fælles Bedste Foreningen for Biodynamisk Jordbrug Foreningen Frøsamlerne Foreningen Netværk for Økologisk Akvakultur Frie Bønder - Levende Land Grøn Hverdag IBP Farming Københavns Fødevarefællesskab Landsforeningen for Økosamfund Landsforeningen Praktisk Økologi Make Impact Films	Poland Association Forum of Organic Agriculture Mieczysław Górny (AFOA) Civil Affairs Institute Demeter Polska Fundacja EkoRozwoju Living Earth Coalition Polish Chamber of Organic Food Polish Ecological Club in Gliwice Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne EKO-UNIA

<p>Miljøbevægelsen NOAH - FoE Dk Permakulturgaarden i Skovvirke Permakultur Denmark Self-sustaining Cities</p>	
<p>France</p> <p>Association Kokopelli Demeter France Mouvement de l'agriculture biodynamique (MABD) POLLINIS</p>	<p>Portugal</p> <p>Demeter Association Portugal GAIA-Grupo de Acção e Intervenção Ambiental Living Seeds Sementes Vivas SA Plataforma Transgenicos Fora</p>
<p>Germany</p> <p>Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL) e.V. Bioland e.V. Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BÖLW) Demeter e.V. Denree GmbH Gen-etisches Netzwerk e.V. IG Saatgut Landesvereinigung für den ökologischen Landbau in Bayern e.V. Lebende Samen e.V. Netzwerk Solidarische Landwirtschaft e.V. Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG) e.V.</p>	<p>Slovakia</p> <p>Quid est VERITAS</p>
<p>Greece</p> <p>Aegilops Sito Seeds</p>	<p>Slovenia</p> <p>Amarant EKOCi Institut eko semena</p>

	Zveza biodinamikov Slovenije
<p>Hungary</p> <p>Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (Friends of the Earth Hungary)</p> <p>ÖMKi</p>	<p>Sweden</p> <p>Demeter Sweden</p> <p>NOrdBruk</p> <p>Skillebyholm</p> <p>Skillebyholms odlingar</p> <p>Swedish Biodynamic association</p>
<p>Italy</p> <p>Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die biologisch-dynamische Wirtschaftsweise Bozen – Trient VFG</p> <p>Demeter Italia</p> <p>EcoNaturaSi</p>	<p>Switzerland</p> <p>Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz</p>
<p>Luxembourg</p> <p>Vereenegung fir Biolandwirtschaft Lëtzebuerg a.s.b.l.</p>	<p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Beyond GM</p> <p>GM Freeze</p> <p>GM Watch</p>