



# 20 EUROPEAN 25 ORGANIC CONGRESS

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**STRENGTHENING ORGANIC ROOTS FOR  
A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE 2050**

**25-27 JUNE**

**WARSAW, POLAND**

#EUorganic2030

#EOC2025



# New Genomic Techniques – State-of-play of the legislative process

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# Timeline



## Completed: Inception Impact Assessment

- Presentation of roadmap
- Public consultation



## Ongoing: Full impact assessment

- Public Consultation & Targeted Stakeholder Survey
- Assessment of impact for each option
- Impact Assessment report

## 2023-?: Co-decision process

- Legislative proposal – 5<sup>th</sup> of July
- Position formed among MS (Council) & Parliament
- Trilogue





# Commission Proposal



- **5 July 2023:** Publication of [legislative proposal](#)
  - “Proposal for a new Regulation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques”.
  - Analysis available in member extranet (link [here](#))



Brussels, 8 August 2023

## Preliminary Analysis - Legislative Proposal on so-called “New Genomic Techniques”

*This is a confidential, IFOAM Organics Europe member-only document, so please do not distribute it to external contacts. This document aims to provide a short overview of the main points of interest for the organic food and farming movement of the legislative proposal on so-called “New Genomic Techniques” (NGTs), published by the European Commission on July 5, 2023. It also refers to some helpful material for further reading and understanding.*

## Table of Contents

Preliminary Analysis - Legislative Proposal on so-called “New Genomic Techniques”	1
Prohibition of all GMOs in organic production	2
Annex I – Criteria of equivalence of NGT plants to conventional plants	3
Category 1 NGT plants – New Regulatory Framework and Transparency Provisions	5
Extensive Confidentiality Provisions for Category 1 NGT crops	6
Category 2 NGT plants – Adaptation of Current Framework	7
Narratives on Organic and Ally Communication	8
Proportionality Instead of Precaution	9
Patents	10
Next Steps – Co-Decision Process	10
IFOAM Organics Europe Resources on the topic of GMOs	11

Conventional Products	GMOs (Article 2(2) of Directive 2001/18/EC)	Annex IB GMO (Directive 2001/18/EC)	Category 1 NGT	Category 2 NGT
Crossbreeding (incl. embryo rescue, induced polyploidy, bridge crosses...)	Transgenic plants	GMO techniques under Annex IB of 2001/18 (Mutagenesis, “history of safe use”)	“Equivalence” to conventional plants based on Annex I of proposal	All NGT crops which do not meet “Equivalence” criteria of Category 1 NGTs
No Risk Assessment	Full Risk Assessment	No Risk Assessment	No Risk Assessment (instead: verification procedure)	Adapted Risk Assessment
No labelling	GMO Labelling	No labelling	Public Register and Labelling for PRM	GMO Labelling + voluntary statement
No detection method	Detection methods	No detection methods	No detection method	Detection method, but derogations if not feasible
Allowed for organic farming	Prohibited in organic farming	Incompatible with organic farming, but unavoidable	Prohibited in organic farming	Prohibited in organic farming





# European Parliament Position

- Position voted on in February & April 2024
- In the preceding months: politicized and rushed process
  - > European elections
- Main elements of position:
  - Exclusion from patentability
  - Ban of all NGTs in organic (potential revision in 7 years)
  - Adventitious or technically unavoidable presence of category 1 NGTs shall not constitute case of non-compliance
  - B2B traceability and labelling re-introduced for NGT 1 crops
  - Herbicide-tolerant plants cannot be regulated as NGT 1 crops





## Council Position

- Context: Rotating presidencies put a lot of pressure
  - Multiple failed official and unofficial attempts for a vote (blocking minority)
  - No thorough discussions on most topics except for patents
- Council reached position on 14 March 2025
- No traceability (only seed label)
- Transparency on patents in seed variety register and public database
- National opt-outs are possible again
- Intentions of national basis for co-existence measures for all NGTs, but...
  - Only in a recital and not enriched in a legally binding article
  - Reference to Article 29 (7) of Organic Regulation puts burden on organic operators and is also technically wrong

## Let's break it down – Direct comparison



Traceability



Ban in organic



Co-existence



Patents



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## Traceability



NGT 1

Commission	Parliament	Council
Seed Label	Full traceability for plants and products containing or consisting of NGT 1	Seed label

NGT 2

Commission	Parliament	Council
All products GMO label Optional: Sustainable label (trait)	All products GMO label Optional: Sustainable label (trait)	All products GMO label Optional: Sustainable label (trait) BUT all traits are listed







## Ban in Organic



NGT 1  
and 2

Commission	Parliament	Council
Ban of all NGTs for the purposes of organic production	Revision of ban in 7 years Case of accidental, adventitious presence (=contamination) does not constitute a case of non-compliance to Organic Regulation	Ban of all NGTs for the purposes of organic production





## Co-existence



NGT 1

Commission	Parliament	Council
No measures	No measures	Intentions for co-existence measures

NGT 2

Commission	Parliament	Council
Measures of GMOs apply, <u>except</u> for the possibility of a national opt-out	Measures of GMOs apply, <u>except</u> for the possibility of a national opt-out	Measures of GMOs apply, <u>including</u> the possibility of a national opt-out





## Patents



NGT 1  
and 2

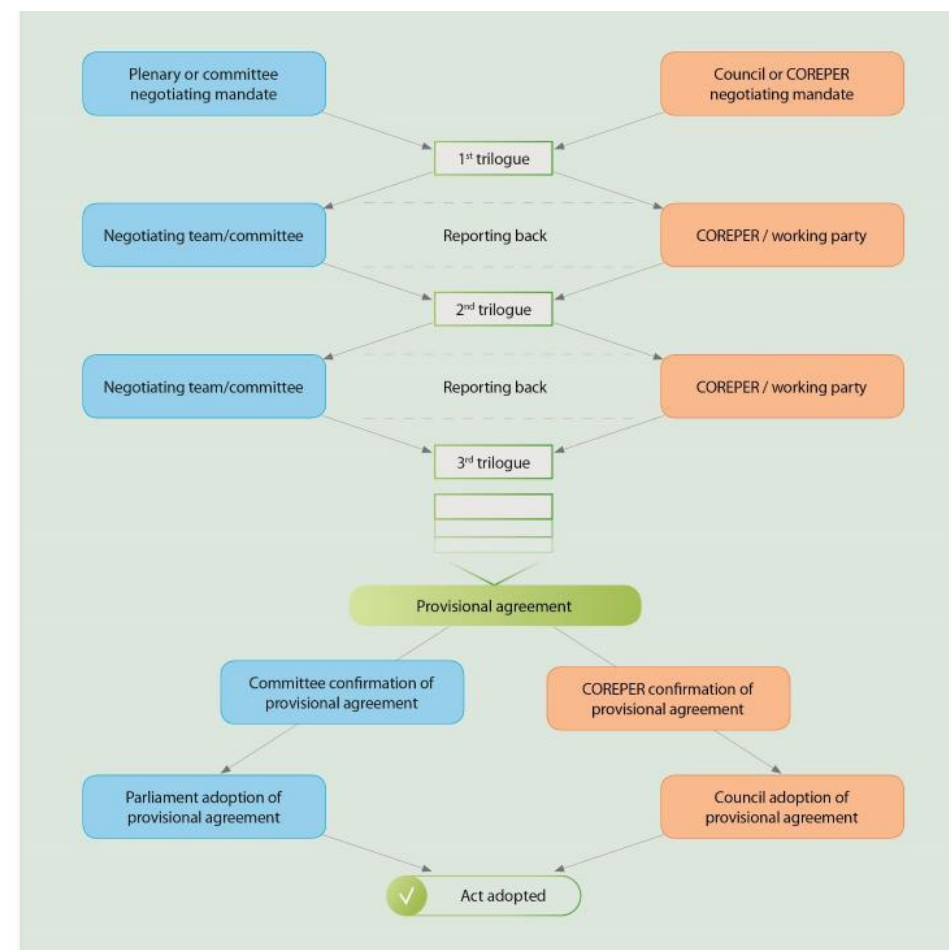
Commission	Parliament	Council
Study on Patents in 2025	Full ban on patents for all NGT plants, plant material, parts thereof, genetic information and process features they contain	Transparency on public database Creation of Expert Group on Patents





## Trilogue: Next Steps

- Official trilogue negotiations and Interinstitutional technical meetings (ITMs)
- ITMs do most of the work:
  - Sort out items into A (political) and B (technical) points
  - Negotiate and draft B items
  - Finalise drafting of A items when they are agreed in trilogues
- Commission is there to bring technical support (but will obviously defend their text)
- In between trilogues, there are shadows meetings and COREPER meetings discussing the advancements + reporting in COMENVI and Council
- Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed
- Backdoor deals are usual – small groups' shadows are discovering them on the day



# Trilogue: 4 columns document



## 4 columns document:

This document is the base of the work in trilogues

It is not public

	Commission Proposal	EP Mandate	ST 6155/2023/1 Council Mandate	Draft Agreement
	Article 2, first paragraph, point (2)			
23	2. 'prepacked pet food' means any single item of pet food for presentation as such to the final consumer, including the packaging into which it was put before being offered for sale, whether such packaging encloses the food completely or only partially, but in any event in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging; prepacked pet food does not cover pet food packed on the sales premises at the final consumer's request or prepacked for direct sale.	2. 'prepacked pet food' means any single item of pet food for presentation as such to the final consumer, including the packaging into which it was put before being offered for sale, whether such packaging encloses the food completely or only partially, but in any event in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging; prepacked pet food does not cover pet food packed on the sales premises at the final consumer's request or prepacked for direct sale.	2. 'prepacked pet food' means any single item of pet food for presentation as such to the final consumer, including the packaging into which it was put before being offered for sale, whether such packaging encloses the food completely or only partially, but in any event in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging; prepacked pet food does not cover pet food packed on the sales premises at the final consumer's request or prepacked for direct sale.	2. <u>'prepacked pet food' means any single item of pet food for presentation as such to the final consumer, including the packaging into which it was put before being offered for sale, whether such packaging encloses the food completely or only partially, but in any event in such a way that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging; prepacked pet food does not cover pet food packed on the sales premises at the final consumer's request or prepacked for direct sale.</u>  Text Origin: Commission Proposal  Provisional agreement ITM 24/05/2023
	Article 3			
24	Article 3 Use of terms referring to organic production on the labelling of pet food	Article 3 Use of terms referring to organic production on the labelling of pet food	Article 3 Use of terms referring to organic production on the labelling of pet food	<u>Article 3</u> <u>Use of terms referring to organic production on the labelling of pet food</u>  Text Origin: Commission Proposal  Provisional agreement ITM 24/05/2023

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the labelling of organic pet food 2022/0390(COD) 31-05-2023 at 14h02 17/28





## Trilogue: Next Steps

- Trilogue negotiations scheduled from 06 May to 30 of June (end of Polish Presidency)
  - technically no time limit to conclude the negotiations
  - Next plenary where the text may be voted on in parliament: September
  - Unfavorable draft text and EP position unlikely to hold up in the negotiations
- High urgency to act!
- Trilogue is the last opportunity to influence the legislative text

## What can you do?



- Reach out to MEPs from all across the political spectrum (esp. right-wing parties, with focus on MEPs in ENVI committee)
  - Send letters and meeting requests
- Mobilize the public and media (publish opinion articles, reach out to journalists,...)
- Reach out to your ministry (esp. Belgium, Greece, Slovakia, Germany, ...)
- Want to give concrete input during trilogue negotiations and be part of the ongoing internal discussions around GMO/NGT control and enforcement? Reach out to us!



Ask our politicians to maintain our  
freedom of choice!

The EU is planning to significantly weaken GMO  
requirements with a new regulation for new

9,901 have sent an email. Let's go to 10,000

Country  
Belgium

VB <sup>3</sup> +	CD&V <sup>2</sup> +	CSP +	PVDA-PTB +
Ecolo +	MR <sup>3</sup> +	PS <sup>2</sup> +	N-VA <sup>3</sup> +
Groen +	Vooruit <sup>2</sup> +	LE +	Open VLD +



# Thank you!

For any questions or remarks, please feel free to reach out to  
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