



## EU Commission study opens the door to an adapted regulatory framework for NGTs: An important step in the right direction requiring rapid follow-up action by the EU Commission

As requested by the Council of Ministers, the EU Commission published just before the set deadline of 30th April 2021, ***the Study on the Status of New Genomic Techniques under Union Law and in light of the Court of Justice Ruling in Case C-528/16***. This ruling left doubt among Member states with regard to its application. Developments in biotechnology, in combination with a lack of definitions or clarity of key terms, give rise to ambiguity in the interpretation of the legal framework. This leads to regulatory uncertainty and hampers the full uptake and development of NGTs. This is fully recognised by the study, which also confirms that NGTs can contribute to achieving the ambitions of the Green Deal. Farmers are ready to contribute to these ambitions and will be able to deal more adequately with the challenges of climate change provided they can access innovative solutions like NGT.

The study indicates that the EU's GMO regulatory framework, as it currently stands, does not seem fit for purpose to regulate NGTs. In follow-up to this study, the EU Commission will therefore consider possible policy instruments to make the legislation more resilient, future-proof and uniformly applied.

Agriculture and Progress is encouraged by this study and eager to actively contribute to the follow-up actions the EU Commission will now take for developing or adjusting the EU's current regulatory framework. Such a framework must be based on scientific assessment, with a clear process of evaluation and authorization, and regulatory costs in proportion to the potential markets. Time is of the essence and Agriculture and Progress encourages the EU Commission to move rapidly and without delay.

An adequate regulatory framework will generate a real boost for NGTs, which are so crucial for the agricultural communities in Europe to deal with climate change challenges whilst delivering safe, good quality and affordable food to Europeans.

Read our NBT position paper: [https://www.agriprogress.info/wp-content/uploads/Agriculture-Progress\\_Position\\_New-Breeding-Techniques.pdf](https://www.agriprogress.info/wp-content/uploads/Agriculture-Progress_Position_New-Breeding-Techniques.pdf)

Read the conclusions of the Agriculture and Progress webinar held on 13th April 2021 on NBTs under patronage of MEP Paolo De Castro: <https://www.agriprogress.info/wp-content/uploads/APP-Conference-en-NBTs-with-MEP-Paolo-De-Castro-Press-release-140421-1.pdf>