



Council of the
European Union

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Council Decision regarding the status of novel genomic techniques under
Union law
- *Adoption*
= Statement

Statement by Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Luxemburg, Poland and Slovenia

With a view to the objective of protecting the environment and human health, respecting the precautionary principle, we consider that any technique, which alters the genetic material for agricultural purpose in a way that does not occur naturally, requires a special attention.

In this regard, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Luxemburg, Poland and Slovenia recall that the preparation of the Council decision was triggered by the situation resulted from the Court of Justice's judgment in [Case C-528/16](#) which brought legal clarity as to the status of new mutagenesis techniques, but also raised practical questions which have consequences for the national competent authorities (referred to recital (4) of the draft Council decision).

We generally support the idea of the preparation of a study on this important topic. Nevertheless we are of the view that this study should be based on a clear and well-defined terminology. In this respect the term used in the above Court Ruling, "new mutagenesis techniques" should determine the scope of the study, as the term "novel genomic techniques" is not clearly defined by EU law.

The protection of human health and the environment requires that due attention be given to controlling the risks from any technique that alters the genetic material, and the current level of protection should be maintained.
