

EU MOVES FORWARD ON NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES ON PLANTS

EFFAB welcomes the progress: a signal for animal breeding?

Brussels, 17 June 2026 - The European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB) welcomes today's positive vote by the European Parliament plenary to adopt the Regulation on plants obtained through New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), marking a decisive milestone for European agriculture and innovation.

A decisive step after years of negotiations

Following years of scientific assessment, legislative work, and extensive negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission, today's vote confirms broad political support for a balanced and science-based framework for New Genomic Techniques (NGTs). The vote follows the endorsement of the compromise text in the Parliament's Environment Committee earlier this week, concluding a process that has been closely watched across the agri-food value chain for over 8 years.

A strong signal for the entire breeding sector

EFFAB aligns with a coalition of 34 European agri-food organisations – including COPA-COGECA and Euroseeds – in welcoming this outcome. The Regulation provides in fact a clear and proportionate framework that enables innovation in plant breeding while ensuring safety, transparency, and legal certainty. The Regulation will help deliver improved crop varieties that can better respond to climate change, pest and disease pressure, and resource constraints – key challenges facing European agriculture.

Important implications for animal breeding

While today's decision focuses on plants, EFFAB stresses its broader significance for the entire breeding sector, including farm animals. The new framework demonstrates that innovation in breeding can be regulated in a balanced and pragmatic way. While no immediate action on animals is expected, this experience provides an important reference point for future reflections on genomic techniques in animal breeding.

This vote sends a strong and positive signal, affirmed César González de Miguel, director of EFFAB. We welcome this progress as the result of an ongoing dialogue between policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders. Without a workable framework enabling the use of new breeding techniques such as NGTs, European farmers and breeders risk falling behind in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change and sustainability. Therefore, we call on the Commission to start working on the update of the legal

framework for livestock breeding, where these techniques could help the sector in the numerous challenges that it faces, such as higher animal disease pressure or animal welfare issues.

About EFFAB:

EFFAB is the association that brings together organisations and companies active in animal breeding and reproduction across Europe. EFFAB members contribute to the genetic improvement of farm animal species including ruminants, pigs, poultry, fish and insects, supporting more sustainable, resilient and efficient food systems. At the intersection of science, innovation and policy, EFFAB engages with EU institutions, research and innovation networks, policymakers, stakeholders to promote evidence-based dialogue and support enabling frameworks for responsible innovation in animal breeding and reproduction.

As coordinator of the FABRE Technology Platform (FABRE TP), EFFAB also contributes to shaping the European research and innovation agenda for the livestock sector.

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