

SAFE regrets ENVI Committee endorsement of trilogue deal on NGTs

SAFE – Safe Food Advocacy Europe, a European consumer organisation specialised in food policy, regrets the endorsement of the trilogue deal on new-genomic techniques (NGTs) by the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament. SAFE calls for the European Parliament to reconsider its initial position with safeguards to protect organic food production.

The current deal foresees lower traceability requirements for so-called category 1 NGTs, which would undermine the integrity of organic food production, threatening its very existence.

SAFE's Deputy Director Luigi Tozzi said: "Organic food production is at a serious risk. The EU must make sure that all NGTs are fully traceable and clearly labelled. This is the only way to protect organic food production from contamination from new genomic techniques. We call for clear and binding coexistence measures between NGT1 and organic crops, as in the original proposal from the European Parliament and in line with current EU guidelines. This should include liability rules in cases of contamination."

SAFE believes that these elements are essential to protect consumers' trust and to safeguard investments in organic production.

The European Union has long supported organic production and figures show that European consumers have consistently placed their trust in this sector. Nearly €15 billion have been invested to strengthen and expand organic farming under the current Common Agricultural Policy (2023–2027). European consumers have spent between €50 and €55 billion annually on organic products in the past decade.

SAFE calls for ENVI Committee in the European Parliament to reject trilogue deal on NGTs

SAFE – Safe Food Advocacy Europe, a European consumer organisation specialised in food policy, calls for the trilogue deal on new-genomic techniques (NGTs) to be rejected by the European Parliament, ahead of tomorrow’s vote in the ENVI Committee.

The current deal with the European Council and the European Commission foresees lower traceability requirements for so-called category 1 NGTs, which would undermine the integrity of organic food production, threatening its very existence.

SAFE’s Deputy Director Luigi Tozzi said: “Organic food production is at a serious risk. The EU must make sure that all NGTs are fully traceable and clearly labelled. This is the only way to protect organic food production from contamination from new genomic techniques. We call for clear and binding coexistence measures between NGT1 and organic crops, as in the original proposal from the European Parliament and in line with current EU guidelines. This should include liability rules in cases of contamination.”

SAFE believes that these elements are essential to protect consumers’ trust and to safeguard investments in organic production. A letter signed by Deputy Director Luigi Tozzi has been sent to the members of the ENVI Committee of the European Parliament inviting them not to endorse the trilogue outcome in its current form.

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About SAFE:

SAFE – Safe Food Advocacy Europe was created with the aim of ensuring that consumers’ health and concerns remain at the core of the EU’s food legislation. SAFE is currently the only Brussels-based NGO specialised in the protection and representation of EU consumers in the food sector. SAFE strives to ensure safer food standards for consumers, monitoring the EU food legislation process and cooperating with EU stakeholders to draft comprehensive food regulations. SAFE notably supports the development of policies and awareness-raising actions which jointly address health, environment, food safety and sustainability, all-the-while being involved in several EU-funded projects aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the food sector, increasing sustainability and promoting healthier food environments for consumers.