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NGTS

NGT DEAL SAILS THROUGH TO PLENARY: The Parliament's environment committee has picked a side on new genomic techniques, and Brussels wasted no time sorting itself into winners and losers.

What happened: Despite internal splits across several groups, ENVI [backed the NGT deal with 59 votes in favor, 24 against and just two abstentions](#). Support came from the EPP, Renew and parts of the right, even as groups including ECR and Patriots split internally.

Not dead yet: Greens and left-wing lawmakers, who led the opposition, found themselves outnumbered. They now turn their attention to plenary, where supporters of the deal believe the arithmetic will still work in their favor. First, though, the file still needs ministerial endorsement in the Council, currently penciled in for April 21.

The winners: For backers of NGTs, the vote was a long-awaited breakthrough. Parliament's lead negotiator, the EPP's Jessica Polfjärd of Sweden, hailed a "historic decision," arguing the new rules put science back at the center of EU policymaking and give farmers "new tools" to boost sustainability, resilience and food security. [Farm groups and breeders piled in](#), with Spain's ASAJA dryly noting on social media that it "[never thought it would see](#)" Pascal Canfin cheering NGTs, before thanking him for choosing "the right side of history."

The losers: Critics saw something else entirely. Organic and consumer groups warned the committee had waved through deregulation by the back door, weakening traceability and coexistence rules while opening the door to patent concentration. SAFE said the vote put organic production "[at serious risk](#)," while Testbiotech accused lawmakers of giving industry a "[carte blanche](#)" for a disruptive technology.

Word of the day: And for readers in search of a more philosophical take, Brussels-based blogger David Zaruk, a former chemical industry lobbyist and frequent critic of activist influence, argues the NGT saga is a [case study in what he calls "adhocracy,"](#) or policymaking by patchwork.