

Gene edited crops --- where is the European Union heading?

KSLA seminar, 15 Oct 2021

Dennis Eriksson

Professor of Plant Functional Genomics

Department of Biotechnology

INN University

Hamar, Norway

dennis.eriksson@inn.no



Inland Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

Law

Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques

[Have your say](#) > [Published initiatives](#) > Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques

○ In preparation

● Roadmap

Feedback period

24 September 2021 - 22

October 2021

FEEDBACK: OPEN

UPCOMING

About this initiative

Summary

This initiative will propose a legal framework for plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis and for their food and feed products. It is based on the findings of a Commission study on [new genomic techniques](#).

The aim is to maintain a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment, enable innovation in the agri-food system and contribute to the goals of the European Green Deal and the 'Farm to Fork' strategy.

Topic

Food safety

Type of act

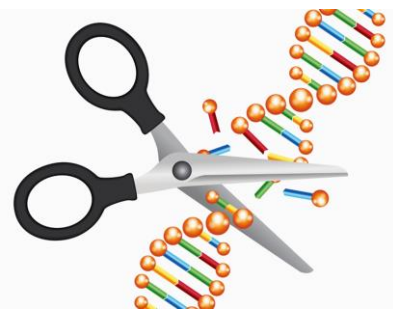
Proposal for a regulation

Do you get a GMO if you use the gene scissor?

Similar type of laboratory work – different results



GMO (per definition)



Not necessarily GMO



EU Court on mutagenesis (case C-528/16)



1. mutagenesis = GMO
2. new mutagenesis = regulated

EU commission study on new genomic techniques (NGTs)



What does the EU commission report say?

- 1) NGTs have **potential** to contribute to the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity strategy, the UN SDGs etc.
- 2) NGT products are already on the market outside of the EU, and most **applications occur outside** of EU.
- 3) The EU Court ruling has **negatively affected NGT research** in the EU.
- 4) NGT products are **regulated as GMOs** (but there are still some uncertainties)
- 5) Today's legislation leads to **implementation issues**.
- 6) Today's legislation is **not fit-for-purpose**, it needs to be updated/changed

What does the EU commission report say?

The study makes it clear that organisms obtained through new genomic techniques are subject to the GMO legislation. However, developments in biotechnology, combined with a lack of definitions (or clarity as to the meaning) of key terms, are still giving rise to ambiguity in the interpretation of some concepts, potentially leading to regulatory uncertainty.



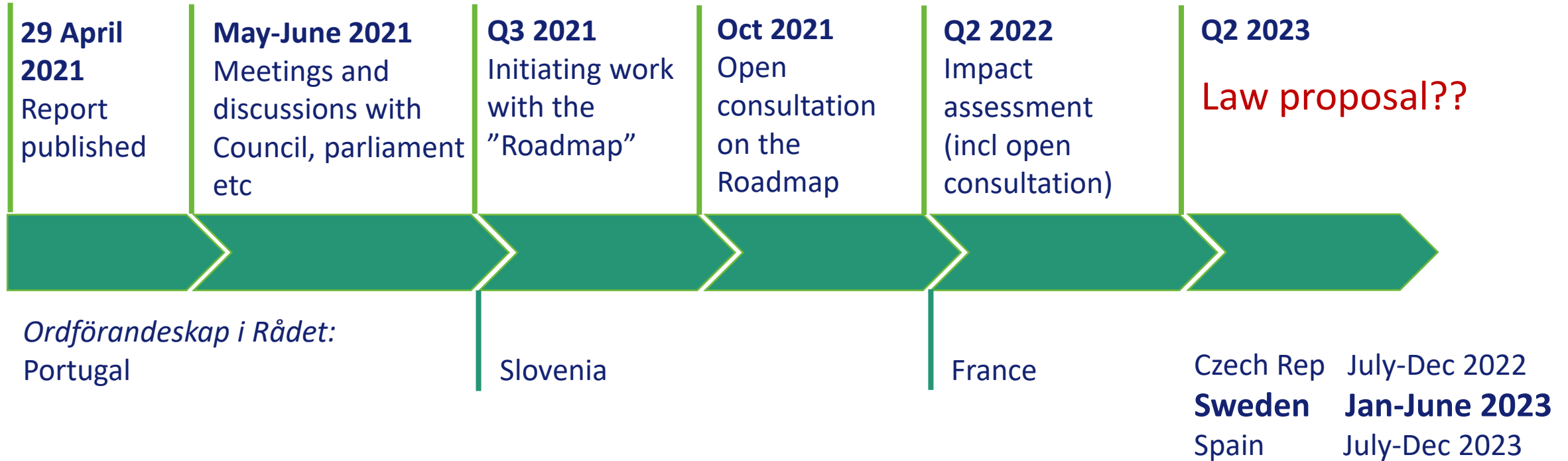
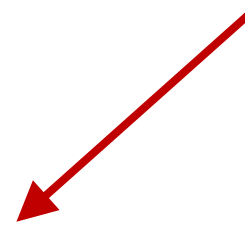
Legal definitions \neq scientific definitions



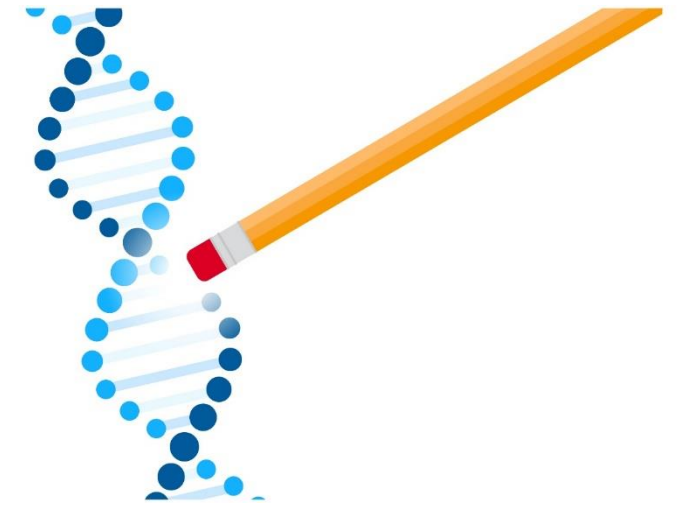
Inland Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

What will happen now?

Open until 22 Oct



Reform options



1. Business as usual
2. Make do with what we have
3. Harmonisation
4. Thorough revision of the EU GMO legislation
5. A complete overhaul

Reform options – the position of the Swedish government

*”For the approval of a novel event, an assessment should be carried out based on the impact of the crop’s traits on human health and the environment, **regardless of which breeding technique has been used**”*

Regeringens proposition
2016/17:104

En livsmedelsstrategi för Sverige – fler jobb
och hållbar tillväxt i hela landet



Prop.
2016/17:104

Regeringen överlämnar denna proposition till riksdagen.

Stockholm den 26 januari 2017



Inland Norway
University of
Applied Sciences