



Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien har till uppgift att främja vetenskaperna och stärka deras inflytande i samhället.
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

28 March 2021

To:

Sabine Juelicher, Director for Food and Feed Safety,
Innovation, DG SANTE
Sirkku Heinimaa, Acting Head of Unit for Biotechnology, DG
SANTE

Cc:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European
Green Deal
Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner, Health and Food
Safety
Janusz Wojciechowski, European Commissioner, Agriculture
Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner, Innovation,
Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Subject: The legal status of plants produced with novel genomic techniques

Dear Director,
Dear Head of Unit,

The European Commission at present is preparing a report of the consequences of the ruling of the European Court of Justice on July 25 2018, that widely has been interpreted to mean that all plants produced by genome editing techniques – including CRISPR/Cas9 whose inventors were rewarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry - should be GMOs in the sense of Directive 2001/18/EC and none of them exempted from regulation.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has followed the discussion around this ruling and we want to remind the European Commission that our Secretary General professor Göran K Hansson signed, together with the leaders of Swedish universities, scientific academies and research funders, on July 27 2019 an open letter calling for an urgent revision of their legal status in light of the ruling that we can see hampers science and innovation in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Larhammar
President