

CDG ORGANIC FARMING

14/4/16

New Breeding Technique interpretation and its impact in the Organic Regulation

The GMO legislation applies to organisms that meet the definition of “Genetically modified organism” and that do not fulfil the conditions for exemption as established under Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of GMOs. GMOs falling under the scope of the GMO legislation are subject to the relevant traceability and labelling rules and shall not be used in organic farming or in the processing of organic products as established in Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

The Commission is currently working on a legal interpretation to clarify the scope of the EU GMO legislation.

This analysis intends to provide elements of interpretation which are helpful to decide whether organisms produced by new breeding techniques fall under the GMO legislation. It is expected to be completed in the course of 2016 and its results cannot be anticipated yet.

The Commission's exercise is aimed at providing an interpretation of the legal framework on GMOs currently in place. For the time being, no revision of the existing legislation is being considered.