



05 dicembre 2018

## IL DOCUMENTO CONCLUSIVO DEL CONGRESSO UEAA

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Si è svolto a Firenze il 22 e 23 novembre 2018, presso l'Accademia dei Georgofili, il Congresso della UEAA (Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature), al termine del quale è stato sottoscritto il documento in inglese che riportiamo di seguito. La UEAA è l'Unione Europea delle Accademia di Agricoltura e ne fanno parte molti Paesi: dalla Croazia all'Inghilterra, dalla Grecia alla Francia, dall'Estonia alla Georgia, dalla Svezia alla Finlandia, dal Portogallo alla Romania, all'Ucraina e altri ancora. Il ruolo della UEAA è particolarmente importante perché si occupa, a livello europeo, di ricerca di base e applicata, di formazione in termini di tecnologie e tecniche innovative per gli agricoltori. Essa opera quindi concretamente per il progresso del settore primario.



***UEAA (Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature)  
ACTS TO SAFEGUARD PLANT GENOME EDITING WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOP  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE***

The UEAA observes that the opinion issued by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on 25 July 2018 on the status of mutagenesis puts at risk the use, in the European

Union, of new plant breeding techniques (NPBT), including genome editing, by subjecting them to the same GMO directive as plants derived from transgenesis.

The capacity of innovation of European breeders and seed producers as well as their world leadership position is being jeopardized. It is also significantly increasing the risk of EU dependency upon large agricultural countries that invest heavily in these very promising new technologies.

In order for European breeders, public and private, to be able to access genome editing technologies, the UEAA requests the European Commission to urgently clarify that plants resulting from conventional techniques of mutagenesis are excluded from the GMO legislation, and that in light of cumulative scientific information now available regarding their safety, plants which have undergone small DNA changes obtained through genome editing must also be excluded from the provisions of the GMO

legislation. For the long term, the UEAA calls for a new GMO directive adapted to modern breeding techniques and enabling science-based evaluation of new plant varieties.

The UEAA supports the joint proposal of WGG (Wissenschaftlerkreis Grüne

Gentechnik) and AFBV (Association Française des Biotechnologies

Végétales) to set up a validation process allowing a developer to submit to a European

competent authority basic information on any plant derived from genome editing to determine its regulatory status: excluded from, or subject to, GMO legislation. Under the

WGG-AFBV proposal the following product categories would not be considered as GMOs: (i)

null segregants, (ii) deletions regardless of size, (iii) substitution of a single nucleotide pair,

and (iv) cisgenes. Countries such as the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Japan

have already begun to put in

place a very similar specific process that leads to the same type of

exclusions.

For the UEAA, these safeguards for new plant breeding techniques must be implemented

urgently to prevent European research from accumulating delays in plant improvement that

are necessary to reduce the use of plant protection products, adapt crops to climate

change, and increase

food security.

Firenze, November 23 2018