



# EU access to information on GMOs

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# Background - EU commitment

- **Party to the Aarhus Convention since 2005**
  - Regulation 1367/2006 – « Aarhus Regulation »
  - Almaty Amendment to Aarhus Convention on GMO
- **Party to the Cartagena Protocol since 2003**
  - Regulation 1946/2003 on transboundary movement of GMOs

# Background - Principles

- **Principles of transparency**
  - Public consultation - Article 9 of General Food Law
  - Public information - Article 10 of General Food Law
- **Consumer informed choice**
  - Article 8 of the General Food Law
- **Public access, consultation & information of the public**
  - EU legislation on GMOs and on access to documents

# Background - Principles

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  - Public consultation (Art. 9 of General Food Law)
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# Outline

- **EU legislation on GMOs**
- **Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to documents**

# EU legislation on GMOs

## **GMO Directive 2001/18 on deliberate release**

- **Part B – Experimental release**

  - Article 9 - Consultation of and information to the public

- **Part C – Placing on the market**

  - Article 24 - Information to the public

## **Food and Feed Regulation 1829/2003**

  - Article 29 – Public access

# GMO applications

- **Published on EFSA, JRC or Commission websites**
  - Summary of the applications for authorisation
  - Member State Assessment Report
  - EFSA scientific opinions
    - + *possible comments from the public – sent to EFSA for assessment*
  - Detection method
  - Monitoring plan

# Websites

- **JRC**

GMOinfo

<https://gmoinfo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

- **EFSA**

Register of questions

[registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/](https://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/)

- **European Commission**

GMO register (in addition to BCH register)

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/gm\\_register/](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/gm_register/)



# Additional public information

- **Agendas and minutes of Standing Committees are publicly available**

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing\\_committees/sc\\_modif\\_genet\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/standing_committees/sc_modif_genet_en)

- **Press is informed when GMOs are authorised**
- **Labelling of GMOs**

# Confidential information

- **Confidentiality claims by applicants**
  - disclosure of information might significantly harm the competitive position, personal data
  - verifiable justification needed
- **Certain information cannot be claimed confidential**
  - e.g. description of the GMO, effects on health and environment, detection method

# Access to documents

- **Access to Documents Regulation 1049/2001**
  - Regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents
  - Any citizen or entity (Article 2)
  - All documents held by the institutions (Article 2)
  - Access is refused when exception applies (Article 4)

# More transparency

## **Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on transparency and sustainability of EU risk assessment in the food chain**

Adopted on 20 June 2019, applicable from March 2021

**Thank you for your attention**

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