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## **“HARNESSTOM partners with young scientists at the IBMCP in support of NGTs the day before the regulation was backed by EU Parliament”**

The plenary session of the European Parliament voted on February 7 in favor of the new regulation on agricultural crops obtained by new genomic technique /genome editing. This vote can be considered a historic one because the new regulation will serve to support innovation, crop improvement, and will take advantage of decades of basic and applied research. This new legislation is better suited to promote the transition towards more sustainable agri-food systems. Genomic techniques including genome editing will allow the agrifood sector to develop new varieties that can be used by European farmers, which will help maintain agricultural production, while reducing agrochemicals, which, ultimately, guarantees sustainability and safety, all this aspects of actual and key importance in the current situation of climate change and global crisis.

HARNESSTOM partners have supported NGTs and several members participated in different initiatives that gained momentum in the last two weeks in relation to the ongoing process. On 2022 Harnesstom coordinator participated in producing a white paper report for COSCE (Spanish Confederation of Scientists) to inform Spanish politicians about the importance of the new genomic techniques and how relevant was to change the legislation (<https://cosce.org/informe-cosce-para-la-revision-del-marco-regulador-de-las-tecnicas-de-edicion-genomica/>). This document was sent to the European Parliament and was very much in line with what has been approved.

This vote at the EU parliament was preceded by a lot of activity by science and anti-science groups as the debate that was to be held at the full European Parliament was crucial and the vote on whether to support CRISPR and other NGTS was of huge importance for the EU Agriculture and EU science. This comes after the ENVI committee voted in favour, which was preceded by also huge activity including a very successful open letter in support of the new legislation that was supported by HARNESSTOM scientist and many Nobel Prizes and Twas covered widely in the media.

After the vote, rapporteur Jessica Polfj rd (EPP, SE) said: “NGTs are crucial to strengthen Europe's food security and to green our agricultural production. The new rules will allow the development of improved plant varieties that can ensure higher yields, be climate resistant or which require fewer fertilisers and pesticides. I hope member states will soon adopt their position so we can adopt the new rules before the European elections and give the farmers the tools they need for the green transition.”

Parliament is now ready to start negotiations with EU member states on the final law.





Image 1: Young scientists at the IBMCP including HARNESSTOM partners showing their support for NGTs. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, the day before the debate, hundreds of scientists were mobilised across Europe to take group photos outside their universities or institutes showing their support and tagging MEPs on social media.



Image 2: Moment the Environmental ENVI Committee of the EU voted to back NGT Proposal



Image 3: Snapshot showing the result of Commission proposal on NGTs with a clear win of passing the new legislation on GNTs with 307 votes in favour and 263 against.