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European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture
(Innovation in Agriculture)

Subject: WP Innovation in Agriculture – Meeting of 30-31 October 2023 –
Presidency Flash

In view of the meeting of the Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture (Innovation in Agriculture) of 30-31 October 2023, delegations will find in annex the Presidency Flash.

WORKING PARTY ON GENETIC RESOURCES AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE (INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE)

Presidency Flash for WP 30 and 31 October

TIME	LOCATION
30 OCTOBER: AM: 10:00-13:00 PM: 14:30-18:30	BRUXELLES- JUSTUS LIPSIUS (FORMAT 1+2)
31 OCTOBER: AM: 10:00-13:00 PM: 14:30-18:30	

Contact details: life.3@consilium.europa.eu ; bzn-es.innovation@mapa.es.

Dear colleagues,

Please find below further information on the items on the provisional agenda for the meeting of 30-31 October. We intend to take them in the order shown here.

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625.**

(a) Rationale for the equivalence criteria in Annex I.

- *Presentation by the Commission and exchange of views*
(ST 14204/23 INIT)

The Commission will present the rationale for the equivalence criteria in Annex I, as set out in its technical paper of 16 October 2023. Delegations will have the opportunity to seek further clarification.

(b) **Presidency compromise text.**

- *Discussion of the Presidency compromise text on Articles 5(3) and 12-34, and Annexes I-III*
(ST 14695/23 INIT)

The Presidency will present its compromise text on Articles 5(3) and 12-34, as well as Annexes I-III. Delegations will have the opportunity to seek further clarification.

2. Any other business

Delegations are invited to inform the Presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council of any other business that they would like to raise, in advance of the meeting.

Pilar Cubas
Centro Nacional de Biotecnología-CSIC, Madrid

Plant branching patterns are of paramount importance in agriculture as they determine a plant's adaptability to its environment and its potential yield of leaves, flowers, and fruits. Indeed, crop yield is strongly influenced by branching patterns. Shoot branching is genetically controlled and relies on the activity of axillary buds: if axillary buds stay dormant, the plants will not produce branches and will only grow vertically; if they activate and start sprouting, they will generate branches and will give a bushy plant. Thus, the decision of buds to grow or not to grow critically defines plant architecture and productivity. In Cubas' lab, they are studying the genes that control shoot branching patterns in three species: the model system *Arabidopsis thaliana*, and the crops species tomato and potato. Using gene editing, their goal is to modulate gene activity in order to design plants with improved architecture. They have already generated CRISPR mutants for a number of genes playing key roles in this process and are investigating their impact in plant architecture.

PLANTS WITH IMPROVED ARCHITECTURE


