Veille citoyenne d'information sur les OGM et les semences

In Europe, legislative developments concerning living organisms are progressing slowly

Par Denis MESHAKA

Publié le 08/10/2025, modifié le 09/03/2026

Since 3 May 2022, the European Commission has launched numerous legislative initiatives relating to living organisms. The deregulation of plants and certain GMO micro-organisms, the digitisation of living organisms and patents are all topics being discussed by Member States and the European Parliament. If adopted, these projects would make it easier for companies with the means to appropriate living organisms. What is the current status of these projects? *Inf'OGM* takes stock.



Since the publication of our November 2024 article1, there has been little overall progress on the European legislative projects currently under discussion. Most of the issues remain under discussion within the Council or Parliament (or even at earlier stages), with no decisive progress.

Technical debates on micro-organisms, traces of genetically modified micro-organism (GMM) DNA and supplementary protection certificates for plant protection products (pesticides) have not led to any final decisions. Sensitive issues, such as genetically modified animals, remain blocked due to a lack of political consensus. There is therefore a relative inertia on the part of the European Union (EU) institutions, including the Commission, which one would imagine would want to see certain issues resolved.

The main developments concern two issues in particular. On the one hand, in March 2025, the Council of the EU adopted a negotiating mandate on the regulation governing GM plants obtained through new genetic modification techniques (procedure 2023/0226), paving the way for discussions with the European Parliament and the Commission in the context of the trilogue[2]. Furthermore, the EU has continued its international engagement with the BBNJ Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. To this end, it has published an official communication on the signing and ratification of this agreement. These two developments mark important but limited steps forward in a legislative landscape that is still largely awaiting concrete decisions.

In addition, two public consultations on initiatives published by the European Commission are currently underway. The first, which concerns food safety for humans and animals, aims to simplify the administrative burdens associated with marketing authorisations, particularly for products derived from GMOs. The second, which is part of the Commission's "*Life Sciences*" strategy, concerns a comprehensive regulation on biotechnology[3].

The table below (which *Inf'OGM* will update regularly) summarises the various procedures currently underway.

Summary of the European Commission’s legislative initiatives relating to Living

	GMO DEREGULATION				
	Plants obtained by “*NGT*“	**GMM obtained by “*NGT*“**	**GMM DNA in lots of additives**	**Pharmaceutical by GMM**	**Animals obtained by “*NGT*“**
Purpose	Deregulation of numerous GM plants	Deregulation of numerous GMM	Regulatory status of products containing GMM DNA traces	Harmonization of the authorisation procedure for medicinal products	**Food safety** Stimulate innovation by optimizing research and innovation and facilitating rapid market access for biotechnological innovations Deregulation of numerous GM animals
Procedure reference	2023/0226	Request from EP on the 07/02/24		2023/0132	Request from EP on the 07/02/24

Proposal from EC	Text of the proposal (05/07/2023)		To follow the discussions (Last meeting to date : 20/09/2021)	Text of the proposal (26/04/2023)	Consultation (End : 14/10/2025)
EP's Commission	Text of the report (24/01/2024)			Text of the report (21/03/2024)	
EP's vote	Decison adopted (07/02/2024)			Decison adopted (10/04/2024)	
2nd EP's vote	Text adopted (24/04/24)				
EU Council vote					
Final text					
Commencement					

	"LIFE SCIENCES"	**DSI**		**PATENTS**		**SE**
	Biotech Regulation (Biotech Act)	**UNCLOS**	**European Health Data Space**	**Phytopharmaceutical products**	**Medicinal products**	**Se re**
Purpose	Simplification of administrative burdens related to marketing authorizations, including products derived from GMOs (omnibus package)	Signature of the BBNJ agreement (GR and DSI in international waters)	Access to genetic, genomic and proteomic human data	Unitary supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products	Unitary supplementary certificate for medicinal products	Pr an ma pla rep ma the
Procedure reference		2023/0353	2022/0140	2023/0126	2023/0127	20
Proposal from EC	Consultation (End : 10/11/2025)	Text of the proposal (12/10/2023)	Text of the proposal (03/05/22)	Text of the proposal (27/04/23)	Text of the proposal (27/04/23)	Te pr (05
EP's Commission		Text of the report (19/04/24)	Text of the report (05/12/23)	Text of the report (24/01/2024)	Text of the report (31/01/2024)	Te re (22

EP's vote	Decision adopted (24/04/24)	Decision adopted (13/12/23)	Decison adopted (26 février 2024)	Decison adopted (28/02/24)	De ad (24
Interinstitutional negociations		Agreement adopted (22/03/24)			
2nd EP's vote		Text adopted (24/04/24)			
EU Council vote					
Final text	Text adopted (19/07/2024)				
Commencement					

- + Eric Meunier, « The European Commission's legal initiatives on the Living », *Inf'OGM*, 13 novembre 2024.
- + Eric Meunier, « Towards the start of the trilogue on GMO deregulation? », *Inf'OGM*, 2 avril 2025.
- + Denis Meshaka, « The EU's "life sciences" strategy: a pro-industry strategy », *Inf'OGM*, 1er août 2025.

Adresse de cet article : https://infogm.org/en/in-europe-legislative-developments-concerning-living-organisms-are-progressing-slowly/