Veille citoyenne d'information sur les OGM et les semences

What « discussion » procedures are imposed on European legislators?

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Since July 2023, EU institutions have been engaged in discussions on the proposal to deregulate many GMOs. These discussions follow an established procedure of negotiations between the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission. Complex but logical, this procedure can sometimes confuse those who follow it. *Inf'OGM* helps you see things more clearly.



There are numerous legislative projects that have been initiated by the European Commission over the past two years, as well as those that have already been announced. In areas related to

biotechnology, these projects tackle existing legislation aimed at protecting the environment, health and citizens' rights, as Inf'OGM recently pointed out in an opinion piece[i]. It is essential to understand how European legislators discuss, exchange views and put forward their own points of view, or at least those of their voters.

Focusing on the work currently underway on the possible deregulation of many GMOs (with key dates already set for the stages that have been completed), *Inf'OGM* has outlined below the step-by-step procedure for the adoption or rejection of European legislation.

The work of the European Commission (in yellow), the Council of the European Union (in blue), the European Parliament (in salmon pink) and the trilogue or conciliation meetings (in green) are shown in chronological order.

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Procedure of institutional talks on the the proposal to deregulate GMOs obtained through new techniques (GMOs / NGTs)

25 July 2023
European Commission
Legislativ proposal made (procedure 2023/0226)

1st reading step

7 March 2025
EU Council
Mandate to negotiate with the European Parliament

24 April 2024
European Parliament
1st reading position

4 December 2025
Trilogue
Proposed provisional compromise text

19 December 2025
EU Council
Permanent representatives committee : in favour (by qualified majority)

28 January 2026
European Parliament
Environment Committee :
Confirmation of the compromise text

EU Council
Translation of the provisional compromise text in 27 languages and legal check
Vote of a 1st reading position

European Parliament
Environment Committee :
Vote recommendation to the European Parliament (possible request for an early 2nd reading vote)

Schedule for a plenary session

Procedure for tabling amendemnts (Eruopean Parliament)
1/20th of the members of the European Parliament or a political group

2nd reading step

Three months delay

European Parliament
If an amendment of rejection is tabled the Parliament starts with a vote on this amendment

If no answer from the Parliament

Adoption of the Regulation Signature Publication in the JO

European Parliament
Vote to reject by absolute majority

Proposal rejection

European Parliament
If the amendment to reject not adopted
Vote on the tabled amendments

European Parliament
The Presidency can lift the restrictions on the tabled amendments in case of MEPs elections between the 1st and the 2nd reading

European Parliament
If amendment to reject not adopted
and
if no tabled amendments
or
if no request to go directly to the vote on the amendments => early vote

European Parliament
Vote of agreement by simple majority

Proposal rejection

Adoption of the Regulation Signature Publication in the JO

European Parliament
Vote of amendments (absolute majority) to :
a) restore a 1st reading Parliament's position (if not in the compromise text)

b) Amend a novelty from EU Council
c) Amend a novelty from Trilogue

European Commission
Opinion on the Parliament's 2nd reading amendments

European Commission
Opinion in favour of the adopted amendments

European Commission
Opinion not in favour of the adopted amendments

i « GMOs, seeds, pesticides, transparency… European law under attack! », *Inf'OGM*, 22 January 2026.

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