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FEDIOL statement on the Commission study on the status of new genomic techniques

As the EU association representing producers of vegetable oils and protein meals, FEDIOL welcomes the publication of the European Commission study¹ on new genomic techniques (NGTs) whose findings align with the [views](#) shared by FEDIOL during the stakeholder consultation supporting this study.

FEDIOL supports the main conclusions of the study that NGTs have the potential to contribute to more sustainable food systems and that the current EU GM regulatory framework is not fit for certain NGTs. FEDIOL shares the objective of supporting the transition towards a more sustainable EU food system and believes that an acceleration of genetic progress through the use of NGTs can bring key benefits and opportunities by helping to reduce the environmental impact of the agricultural supply chains and to address the food production challenge in a context of reduced use of pesticides and fertilisers and under water scarcity.

FEDIOL strongly supports the Commission's proposal to initiate a policy action for adapting the legislation. FEDIOL believes that the way to regulate these techniques should be reconsidered, taking into consideration the challenges ahead and the benefits they could bring, while continuing to ensure a high level of protection and caring for societal concerns. As highlighted in the study, several countries in the world already adapted their legislation to cover new genomic techniques and their products. Integrating the trade dimension in these considerations should ensure that the EU is not placed at a competitive disadvantage.

FEDIOL believes that such **policy action is urgently needed** to address the legal uncertainty and implementation challenges associated with the current legislation (which, in the near future, could leave FEDIOL members exposed to the risk of non-compliance when importing their raw materials since it is not possible to distinguish plants obtained by NGTs) and to set the conditions which will allow to realize the potential of NGTs and help achieve the EU ambitions for our food systems.

¹ Commission staff working document - Study on the status of new genomic techniques under Union law and in light of the Court of Justice ruling in Case C-528/16, published on 29 April 2021, [link](#)