

[en](#)

[Event](#) | 10.12.2020 | 16:00 - 17:30

Find me if you can – Detecting gene-edited plants in the EU food chain

Live Webinar - Register here!

EU governments are worried that GM plants engineered with so-called “gene editing” cannot be distinguished from similar, non-GM plants and therefore cannot be regulated.

Based on such “[practical questions](#)”, they asked the Commission to assess, by April 2021, whether these plants should continue to be regulated under EU GMO law.

In September, a coalition of scientists, NGOs and non-GM food retailers announced an [open-source detection method](#) for the first commercialised gene-edited crop, Cibus’ SU Canola, an oilseed rape grown in Canada and the US. Based on standard GMO detection technology, the test can be readily integrated into the analytical routine of any regulatory or commercial GMO testing laboratory.

But the Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), which chairs the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL), has said the test “[cannot be applied for unequivocal detection, identification and quantification](#)” of this unauthorised GM crop.

During the webinar, we will hear the views of those who developed the detection method, of the European Commission and of MEPs from the Greens/EFA, S&D and GUE groups.

Speakers

- Heike Moldenhauer, EU Policy Advisor, German Association Food without Genetic Engineering (VLOG)
- Eric Gall, Deputy Director, IFOAM Organics Europe
- Dr John Fagan, CEO and Chief Scientist, Health Research Institute
- Dr Hendrik Emons, Head of Unit, Food and Feed Compliance, Joint Research Centre (European Commission)

EN-DE-FR Interpretation will be provided.

Hosted by MEPs Eleonora Evi, Martin Häusling, Anja Hazekamp, Tilly Metz, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Günther Sidl

Recommended

Press release

Melissa Walker Horn



[CMO/Veggie burger: Quote from MEP Anna Strolenberg](#)

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Bert Christiaens



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06.10.2025

Responsible MEPs



Martin Häusling

Member



Tilly Metz

Member

Contact person



Franziska Achterberg

Biodiversity campaigner

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