



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, 14 June 2024

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Building the future with nature: Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU - COM(2024) 137 final

The Romanian Senate examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. *Building the future with nature: Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU - COM(2024) 137 final* – according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon Protocol (no. 1).

Taking into account the report of the Committee for European Affairs, the Plenary of the Senate, during its session of June 11, 2024,

- 1) considers that the Commission's initiative to identify specific actions aimed at addressing the challenges faced by the biotechnology and biotech production sectors in the European Union is important.
- 2) notes that for the development and support of research in the field of biotechnology, sustained funding of research institutes, higher education institutions, and encouragement of investments in the field are necessary, Romania being one of the countries in Europe with low participation in accessing research programs such as Horizon Europe.
- 3) recommends the following main lines to be followed, which should form the basis of general regulations in the field of biotechnology products:
 - a) ensuring the mandatory risk analysis for each biotech product, in relation to human, animal, and environmental health, before introducing it to the European single market. Guaranteeing health is a top priority.
 - b) establishing biotechnology centers with 100% European funding in each member state, for the purpose of testing, researching, and developing biotechnology products that will be introduced to the single market.
 - c) the evaluation of modifications should be carried out at the member state level regarding agricultural value, technological value, and distinctiveness, stability, and uniformity, to take into account the specificity of each member state, as the aim is to create products with certain characteristics obtained through genomic operations;

- d) ensuring control methods for all biotech products, to monitor their effects, these being produced with artificial intelligence and having no history of use at the European level.
- e) ensuring the traceability and labeling of biotech products and their derivatives, to respect consumers' rights to be informed and to choose (Article 169 of TFEU);
- f) patenting products obtained through biotechnology procedures (EU Directive 98/44 on protecting inventions obtained through biotechnological procedures) - it is necessary to exclude from patenting plants and other biotech products obtained through processes that could occur in the natural environment ('in vivo'), as well as plants that are already in the public domain and genes of interest that are part of the biodiversity heritage;
- g) compliance with the 'Principle of Prevention/Precaution,' as stated in TFEU, Art.191.