

ZEI Monitor **EU Progress 2014-2019**

Fact Sheet: Review of GMO Decision Making Process

Timeline

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| 15 th July 2014 | Jean-Claude Juncker outlines the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission, the GMO decision making process is identified as requiring review under the Priority: A Union for Democratic Change. |
| 16 th December 2015 | Work Program of the Commission released. A review to look at how GMO rules could be changed to better ensure that the majority views of member states are taken into account is one of 23 key initiatives. |
| 22 nd April 2015 | European Commission provides the results of its review. Commission sends a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and Council |
| During 2015 | Legislative proposal to go through ordinary legislative procedure. |

Goal

To review the applicable legislation on the authorization of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Reasoning

The review confirmed the need for changes following public concern and to allow member states to have a greater say on the use of GMOs, in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

Core elements

Commission proposes to amend legislation to give member states more freedom to restrict, or prohibit the use of EU-authorized GMOs in food or feed in their territory.

Once a GMO is authorized for use as food or feed in Europe, member states will have the chance to decide on whether to opt-out of allowing the particular GMO to be used on their territory. The opt-out must be justified under EU law.

Key Players

European Commission, Council, European Parliament, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, Member States.