

Contribution to briefing for meeting of DG Anne Bucher with MEP Pascal Canfin on 05-09-2019 (SANTE 4863)

1. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and new breeding techniques (NBTs)

In the past legislature, we had an unproductive relationship with ENVI on GMOs with 37 objections to authorisations adopted in Parliament, which were not followed by the Commission.

You could see whether he is open to relaunching a productive discussion on GMOs. However, Canfin himself is critical of GMOs in general and when asked may criticise the Commission for consistently disregarding the ENVI and Parliament majority against the authorisations.

On NBTs, a majority of ENVI Members was happy with the Court decision and in favour of treating them the same way as GMOs. You could, however, inform about difficulties arising from the current situation and missed opportunities, also with regard to progress on more sustainable agriculture.

Suggested lines to take:

- Note the interest in the Parliament – previous and current – on NBTs
- Ask the MEP about expected views in the ENVI Committee with regard to the implications of the Court ruling.