

We would like to supply additional information needed for the preparation of the next committee meeting on 12 June, requested in an e-mail from Chantal BRUETSCHY, Head of Unit "Biotechnology". This is an addendum to the information already given.

Re. 1: a) With regards to EVIRA report: authorities in The Netherlands could sample Go!Tunia Orange, African Sunset, Sanguna Salmon, Sanguna Patio Salmon and Cascadias Indian Summer. These samples were analysed for the markers P-35S, T-35S, NPTII, T-OCS, P-Nos, CaMV and actin (similar to analysis of ENVIRA). The results showed Go!Tunia Orange, African Sunset and Sanguna Salmon to contain the transgenic markers, while Sanguna Patio Salmon and Cascadias Indian Summer were negative for these markers, largely corroborating the results from ENVIRA (clarifying the ambiguity of the Sanguna varieties).

b) In addition, breeders in The Netherlands reported three other varieties (Viva Orange, Viva Fire and Viva Orange Vein) that they suspected as well. Upon analysis these varieties were shown to contain the transgenic markers as well.

c) As a result of the communication with breeders and branch organisation a breeder (active in both The Netherlands and Denmark) has informed us that their own analysis showed three more varieties that probably contain the above mentioned markers. These are called 'Raspberry Blast', 'Mini Blast Rose' and 'Lipstick'. They have asked for independent confirmation of these results, which is still pending.

Re. 2: It has become clear to many authorities involved in the research into this incident that the GM-petunias have been on the market for a considerable time (some estimate more than 10 years). And that these petunias have been traded all over the world. Of note: Japanese authorities as well as those from the USA have taken measures too.

Re. 3: Breeders in The Netherlands are very cooperative in ceasing all trade and use of the (suspected) GM-petunias. They took appropriate measures as soon as suspicion arose (immediate cessation of trade, informing trade partners of possible event and willing to destroy (suspected) GM-plants as soon as possible). Furthermore, they supply the Inspectorate with all information asked promptly.

Re. 4: The Commission on Genetic Modification (COGEM) in The Netherlands has been asked for an advise by the Dutch Inspectorate, with respect to environmental risks and destruction of the GM-petunias (see the COGEM report attached). From this advice it seems unnecessary to recall plants from private customers, due to the low environmental risk the nature of the transgene poses. According to this report the method of choice for destruction is either incineration or industrial composting following the procedures for certified compost (criteria for which were drawn up by industrial producers of compost in The Netherlands; so-called Keurcompost).