**EU response to CBD Notification 2017-141**

**Detection and identification of living modified organisms: submission of information**

Ref.: SCBD/SPS/DC/MM/DA/87054

The core tasks of the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) for genetically modified food and feed (EURL GMFF) are the scientific assessment and validation of detection methods for GM food and feed as part of the EU authorisation procedure and the coordination of the National Reference Laboratories for GMO in the Member States. The EURL GMFF is supported by the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL) , and hosted by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

The EURL-GMFF organises comparative testing for National Reference Laboratories (designated by each EU Member State) and assures the appropriate follow-up with the aim of contributing to a high quality and uniformity of analytical results in the European Union.

The EURL GMFF operates according to a quality management system certified and accredited according to ISO 17025 and ISO 17043.

Main activities (mandate) of the EURL GMFF, with the support of ENGL, are:

Validation of GMO detection methods as part of the EU GMO approval process under Reg. (EC) 1829/2003

Provision of control samples (provide laboratories with appropriate tools to carry out necessary controls)

Provision of guidance documents (e.g. on sampling and testing, method acceptance criteria, method performance criteria)

Role in dispute settlements (provide guidance in case MS contest the outcome of test results)

Role in emergency situations (when GMOs not approved in the EU occur on the EU market)

Providing National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) with reference analytical methods (GMOMEHODS database)

Coordinating application of the methods by organising comparative testing and by ensuring an appropriate follow-up in accordance with internationally accepted protocols

Coordinating practical arrangements needed to apply new analytical methods

Conducting training courses for the benefit of staff from NRLs and of experts from developing countries

Providing technical assistance to the Commission, especially in controversial analyses

Collaborating with laboratories responsible for analysing feed and food in third countries