

Stakeholder Dialogue Highlights Urgent Need for NGTs in European Agriculture

14 October 2025

Plant ETP organised a high-level stakeholder dialogue at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels, co-hosted by Members of the European Parliament and bringing together farmers, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss the future of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) in European agriculture.

On Tuesday the 14th October Plant ETP co-hosted a high-level stakeholder dialogue at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels, bringing together Members of the European Parliament, farmers, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss the future of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) in European agriculture.

The event, titled *“Stakeholder Dialogue: Harnessing NGTs for Agricultural Competitiveness”*, addressed the mounting challenges facing European agriculture, from climate change and pest pressures to market instability, and emphasized the critical role of NGTs in ensuring food security, resilience, and competitiveness.

Key messages from the dialogue included:

- “We need NGTs now!”; highlighting the urgent need for **market access** to NGTs to support farmers and maintain EU competitiveness.
- The importance of **simplification**, **transparency**, and **coherence** in the regulatory framework.
- A strong call for **science-based policymaking** to guide innovation and sustainability.

Speakers included:

- **Germán Vighi**, Plant ETP – Welcome & Introduction
- **MEP Asger Christensen** (Renew Europe) – Keynote Speech
- **MEP Stefan Köhler** (EPP) – Keynote Speech
- **René Custers**, Regulatory Manager, VIB
- **Anja Matzk**, Head of Regulatory Affairs, KWS
- **Max Schulman**, Arable Farmer and Senior Advisor, MTK
- **Alessio Mammi**, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Emilia-Romagna & Member of the European Committee of the Regions

- **MEP Stefano Bonaccini (S&D) – Closing Keynote Speech**

The dialogue reaffirmed the broad support across sectors for enabling innovation in agriculture and called on EU institutions to act swiftly to establish a regulatory framework that reflects scientific progress and the needs of European farmers.

Plant ETP will continue its advocacy efforts to ensure that NGTs become a cornerstone of a sustainable and competitive European agri-food system.

Plants for the Future ETP (Plant ETP) is a multi-stakeholder European Technology Platform representing the plant sector, from the seed and breeding sector, the farming community and academia. Plant ETP brings stakeholders from the plant sector together to consider the challenges and opportunities of agricultural value chains in a holistic way, while developing a vision for future systems spanning food, feed, and biobased raw materials. In this way, Plant ETP provides strategic direction, recommendations of essential research and innovation, and science-based advice for the benefit of policymakers, research funding providers, practitioners, and innovators throughout agricultural value chains.