



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The development of our economies in a socially responsible and sustainable way, and the success of a united Europe are based on the advancement of knowledge and critically depend on Science. The European Federation of Biotechnology believes that biotechnology, including genetic engineering, is crucial for obtaining materials, energy and pharmaceuticals that will advance the European Union, respond to the needs of society and at the same time respect the environment, our traditions and cultures.

The EFB promotes and encourages continuous dialogue between the scientific community and society at large (including policy makers), strongly believing that evidence-based regulatory processes are essential to guarantee citizens and to promote scientific innovation.

The recent amendments to the Directive 2011/18, approved by the European Parliament on the 13th January, and the Commission decision not to confirm a Chief Scientific Advisor to support its President, raise serious concerns on the commitment of European Institutions in leading innovation and guaranteeing fair competitiveness in the Union. In particular, this new directive will give the Member States the responsibility to safeguard these values.

We, as EFB, urge **the Member States to stand for a science-based approach and** not to exclude their territories for those GMOs that are recognized as safe by the European authorisation system; we ask them to **support their researchers in finding innovative solutions, using the best knowledge available, to tackle the problems that limit EU agricultural competitiveness, and to offer new options to our citizens.**

The European Federation of Biotechnology and its members, will continue to be a partner in this dialogue, and will support collaborations with Member States in this crucial field.