Issue Monitoring

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Legislative Updates

[Imports of agricultural products from Ukraine] The draft bill approving GEO no. 84/2023 was registered with the Chamber of Deputies for debate and sent for a joint report to the Committee for Budget and the Committee for Agriculture, after being adopted by the Senate. The GEO establishes the legal framework for imports of agricultural products from Ukraine.

[National Strategic Plan funds] The draft bill approving GEO no. 85/2023 was registered with the Chamber of Deputies for debate and sent for a joint report to the Committee for Budget and the Committee for Agriculture, after being adopted by the Senate. The GEO establishes the legal framework for the granting of transitional national aid in the plant and animal husbandry sectors, according to the annual financial package for each sector provided in the National Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

[Export of goods outside the Union] The Romanian Customs Authority published in consultation a draft bill that approves the Technical Rules regarding the presentation of goods to customs in places approved by the Customs Authority, other than the customs office, in the case of export, re-export and exit of goods from the customs territory of the Union.

[Energy aid scheme for the agriculture sector] The Minister of Agriculture approved Order no. 484/2023, which changes the period for submitting proposals for energy production projects from renewable sources within the competitive bidding procedure for enterprises in the agricultural and industrial food sectors. Thus, the competitive bidding procedure will be open from November 20 until December 15, 2023.

In National News

Updates on the reorganization of MARD: The secretary of state, Adrian Pintea, who coordinates the working group for the reorganization of MARD announced that the final form for the new structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is ready and could be published soon. The MARD representative added that the Payments and Intervention Agency for Agriculture, the Agency for the Financing of Rural Investments and the National Agency for Land Improvements will not be affected by the changes, while the National Phytosanitary Authority could become an independent institution.

European News

Debate on the NGTs proposal: On November 7, the ENVI Committee held a debate on the draft report for the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques, as Left-wing parties in the European Parliament have criticized the proposal. The main aspects criticized were related to cross-contamination, the impact on traditional farming practices, further reducing labelling

requirements for NGTs, transparency and traceability. A vote on the report is expected for January 11, 2024, while a vote in plenary is scheduled also in January.

Stella Kyriakides on NGT proposal: In response to a question from MEP Isabella Adinolfi (PPE) regarding new genetically modified organisms, the EU Commissioner for Health, Stella Kyriakides explained that provisions on traceability and labelling in the current legislation on genetically modified organisms remain in place for NGT plants that are not considered equivalent to conventional plants, as all Member States will be required to adopt coexistence rules, and that for NGT plants that are considered equivalent to conventional plants, transparency is ensured through the labelling of seeds, information in the catalogues of varieties and a public database of NGT plants.

Documents published in the Official Journal: The following documents were published Official Journal of the European Union:

Common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species Supplement A 2023/6, which covers the notifications received in September 2023

Common catalogue of varieties of vegetable species Supplement H 2023/6, which covers the notifications received in September 2023

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2456 of 7 November 2023 concerning the non-renewal of the approval of the active substance clofentezine, by which the approval of the active substance clofentezine is not renewed.

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