NGTs in Europe: DARWIN policy workshop on implementing the new EU framework

Practical details

Date: Thursday 22 October 2026
Hybrid meeting: Brussels + online
Time: 09:00-12:30 (*followed by a networking lunch for on-site participants*)
Location: MeetDistrict Madou, Avenue Bischoffsheim 15, Brussels and online

Meeting objectives

1. Understand the implementation implications of the new NGT framework.
2. Assess the realistic contribution of current and emerging detection approaches.
3. Identify policy and technical recommendations for maintaining transparency and traceability.

Key discussion topics

The workshop will focus on practical implementation challenges arising from the new NGT framework, including:

- Information requirements for NGT developers and operators to support traceability and regulatory oversight.
- The role and limitations of analytical methods for the detection, identification, and quantification of NGT-1 (Category 1) products, and the analytical requirements associated with the control of NGT-2 (Category 2) products.
- Data, reference materials, and information-sharing mechanisms needed by control authorities and laboratories.
- Implementation challenges for Member State authorities, including verification, enforcement, and cross-border consistency.
- Implications for organic and non-GMO supply chains.
- Opportunities for scientific advances, including results from DARWIN and complementary initiatives such as DETECTIVE, to support implementation.

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Key questions

- What information should developers provide to enable traceability, transparency, and regulatory oversight?
- What can laboratories realistically contribute to the detection and verification of NGT-1 products, and to the control of NGT-2 products under the new framework?
- What information, tools and resources, including information on verified NGT-1 plants, will competent authorities require to implement effective and proportionate control systems?
- How can transparency and freedom of choice be maintained across food and feed supply chains?
- What challenges and opportunities do the new framework create for organic and non-GMO operators?

Target audience

National level:

- Competent authorities responsible for GMO, food, feed, seed, or agricultural regulation
- Official and accredited GMO control laboratories
- Food and feed control authorities and inspection services
- Ministries and agencies responsible for implementation of the NGT framework
- Representatives of organic and non-GMO certification and control systems

EU level:

- European Commission representatives
- EFSA representatives
- European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL) and relevant laboratory networks
- Representatives from Horizon Europe projects DARWIN and DETECTIVE
- Stakeholder organisations representing breeders, food chain operators, and civil society

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Preliminary agenda

Time	Session	Speakers/Participants
09:00-09:25	*Welcome coffee and registration*	On-site participants
09:30-09:35	**Welcome and objectives**	IFOAM EU or NORCE
09:35-09:50	**The new NGT framework: What has changed and what remains uncertain?**	Ilaria Ciabatti, Team lead, DG SANTE Unit E.3 - Biotechnology, European Commission
09:50-10:20	**DARWIN results: What can science realistically deliver?** Detection, identification, traceability, limitations	DARWIN scientific partners
10:20-10:35	**Member State implementation perspectives**	3-4 MS authorities
10:35-10:55	*Networking coffee break*	All
10:55-11:55	**Moderated roundtable:** Implementing traceability and oversight under the new NGT framework	*Ilaria Ciabatti Dr. Wim Broothaerts
11:55-12:20	**Audience discussion**	All participants
12:20	**Key messages and closing**	IFOAM EU or NORCE
12:30	*Networking lunch*	On-site participants

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- **Ilaria Ciabatti**, Scientific and technical team lead, DG SANTE Unit E.3 - Biotechnology, European Commission
- **Dr. Wim Broothaerts**, Team leader, EU Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed, GMO Control, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

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