



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 16.11.2015  
C(2015) 7787 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory {COM(2015) 177 final}.*

*The legislative proposal delivers on one of the priorities of the Political Guidelines on the basis of which the Commission was appointed, namely to allow Member States to better take into account public views and national contexts when it comes to the use of genetically modified food and feed authorised at European level.*

*The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support for the aims of the legislative proposal and has noted the Senát's demand that adoption of an opt-out measure by a Member State must not result in limitations on the transport of genetically modified food and feed through the territory of that Member State. The Commission would like to reassure the Senát in this respect. Even though the proposal allows – under certain substantial conditions – the Member States to derogate from the rules of the Internal Market by restricting or prohibiting the use of genetically modified food and feed in their territory, it is very clear in stating that the restrictions adopted by Member States should not apply to circulation (including transit) and import of genetically modified food and feed (see Recital (9) of the legislative proposal {COM(2015) 177 final}).*

*The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which your government is represented.*

*Mr Milan Štěch  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
Praha 1, 118 01  
Czech Republic*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Sénat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Vytėnis Andriukaitis  
Member of the Commission*