



Secretariaat
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Title: Advice of the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council on the request from VIB to change the authorisation conditions concerning the notification **B/BE/07/V2** for deliberate release in the environment of genetically modified poplars with an altered wood composition for research and development

Context

The notification B/BE/07/V2 has been submitted by the VIB to the Belgian Competent Authority (CA) in November 2007 for a request of deliberate release in the environment of genetically modified higher plants for research and development according to Chapter II of the Royal Decree of 21 February 2005 on the deliberate release of GMOs.

The Biosafety Advisory Council issued a positive advice for this field trial on 25 April 2008. The trial has been authorised on 27 February 2009 and will end in February 2016, as originally planned.

The permit requires that the field trial location is monitored in two consecutive years after the ending of the trial. However, in 2016 a new research institute is going to be built on the field trial location. The construction of the new building implies that monitoring cannot take place as originally described in the notification and required by the permit. The VIB therefore asked the CA, in accordance with Article 20 of the Royal Decree of 21 February 2005, for a modification of the authorisation conditions to monitor the field trial.

In answer to the request received from the CA on 8 January 2016, the Biosafety Advisory Council gives the following advice, as described below, concerning this new monitoring procedure.

Advice

Based on the information provided by the applicant, taking into account the previous advice on notification B/BE/07/V2, and considering the data presently available, the Biosafety Advisory Council concludes that the new procedure proposed by the VIB for the ending of the field trial and its subsequent monitoring is unlikely to lead to any adverse effects on human health or the environment.

The Biosafety Advisory Council recommends however to cover chopped/milled material temporarily stored for composting in order to avoid accidental dissemination of soil and wood chips.



M. De Proft

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