

# Adviesraad voor Bioveiligheid Conseil consultatif de Biosécurité

## Advice of the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council on the amendment request from the VIB for notification B/BE/20/V1 (maize with altered growth characteristics)

1 February 2021  
Ref. SC/1510/BAC/2021\_0083

### Context

In 2020, the VIB applied for a field trial with maize genetically modified to alter the growth characteristics (dossier B/BE/20/V1). The application included three B104 maize lines (AN3\_02; AN3\_05 & AN3\_07) expressing the AN3 gene, that encodes for a transcriptional co-activator of *Zea mays*. The Biosafety Council issued a positive advice on this dossier on 10 March 2020 (ref. BAC\_2020\_0256), on the basis of which the trial was authorised by the competent authority on 6 April 2020.

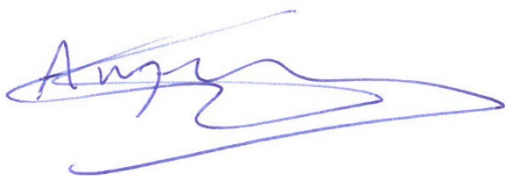
On 14 January 2021, the Secretariat received from the competent authority a request for an advice of the Biosafety Council on a request from the VIB to amend the conditions of authorisation of the field trial B/BE/20/V1. The amendment is limited to a request for a change in the lines that will be used in the field trial. It does not change the genetically modified events that will be tested, nor the experimental design and management of the field trial.

The three genetically modified B104 lines that were already evaluated and tested in the field in 2020, were crossed into the CML91 inbred line by the VIB. Therefore, the amendment request concerns the same 'events' as in dossier B/BE/20/V1, but in a different genetic maize (*Zea mays*) background.

### Scientific evaluation & conclusion

Since it concerns the same events in the same organism (*Zea mays*) and the experimental design and management of the field trial remain the same, the Biosafety Council is of the opinion that:

- The molecular data in the original dossier are sufficient to evaluate the amendment;
- The detection method is still applicable;
- The advice of the Biosafety Advisory Council on the original dossier still applies;
- No additional evaluation/information is required.



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