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Statutes of the Gene Technology Commission

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Amended by the following acts

Reception	Publication	Entry into force
28.04.2011	RT I, 02.05.2011, 5	05.05.2011
13.08.2015	RT I, 26.08.2015, 1	01.09.2015
15.12.2022	RT I, 21.12.2022, 2	01.01.2023
22.06.2023	RT I, 05.07.2023, 1	08.07.2023

The regulation is established on the basis of Section 5(3) of the " Act on the Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment ".

§ 1. Rights of the Gene Technology Committee

- (1) The Gene Technology Committee (hereinafter *the Committee*) has the right to:
- 1) make proposals to the Minister for Climate to request from the European Commission a simplified procedure for the release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (hereinafter *GMOs*) and the marketing of products containing or consisting of genetically modified organisms (hereinafter *product*);
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 2) if necessary, provide an assessment of an application for a permit for the release into the environment of GMOs or a permit for the marketing of GMOs and products (hereinafter *application*) submitted in a Member State of the European Union or request, on a justified basis, additional information regarding the application;
 - 3) make a proposal to the Minister for Climate to determine which data submitted in the application must be kept as a commercial secret;
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 4) request, justifying the request, additional relevant information, additional documents or analyses from the applicant;
 - 5) request information from a government, state or scientific institution and involve experts in their activities;
 - 6) perform or order tests or analyses to verify the data submitted in the application.
- (2) During the validity of a permit for the release of GMOs into the environment or a permit for the marketing of GMOs and products, the Commission has the right:
- 1) if new circumstances arise, to make a reasoned proposal to the Minister of Climate to amend the conditions of the permit or to revoke the permit;
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 2) if an application for extension of the validity of the permit has been submitted, to submit a proposal for extension of the validity of the permit or refusal thereof.

§ 2. Duties of the Commission

- The Commission is obliged to:
- 1) verify the compliance of the application for a permit for the release of GMOs or a permit for the marketing of GMOs and products with the "Act on the Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment" and the requirements set out in the legislation established on the basis thereof;
 - 2) notify the local government body and the Environmental Board of the location of the planned release of the genetically modified organism into the environment;
[RT I, 02.05.2011, 5 - entry into force 05.05.2011]
 - 3) submit a reasoned opinion to the Minister of Climate on whether or not to take into account the proposal made during the publication of the application;
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 4) submit a proposal to the Minister of Climate on the submitted application within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application by the Ministry of Climate;
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 5) submit a written opinion to the Ministry of Regional Development and Agriculture on the application for the production and marketing of food and feed consisting of or containing genetically modified organisms within 40 working days from the date of receipt of the data on the application by the Ministry of Regional Development and Agriculture;
[RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]
 - 6) submit a written assessment to the Labour Inspectorate on the application for the use of genetically modified microorganisms in a contained environment within 30 days from the date of receipt of the documents;
 - 7) submit a written opinion to the Agricultural and Food Board on the application for animal testing with a genetically modified animal

within 40 working days from the date of receipt of the application by the Agricultural and Food Board.

[RT I, 21.12.2022, 2 - entry into force 01.01.2023]

§ 3. Chairman of the Committee

- (1) The chairman and deputy chairman of the committee shall be elected by the committee from among its members.
- (2) The chairperson of the committee shall direct the work of the committee; in his or her absence, the deputy chairperson shall have the authority of the chairperson of the committee.
- (3) The chairman of the committee:
 - 1) shall convene meetings as necessary and set the agenda;
 - 2) shall chair the meetings;
 - 3) shall represent the committee, if necessary;
 - 4) shall distribute tasks among the committee members and shall supervise their performance.

§ 4. Committee meeting

- (1) The working form of the committee is a meeting.
 - (2) At meetings, the committee shall review materials and make decisions by voting.
 - (3) At the discretion of the chairperson of the committee, a meeting of the committee may be held virtually using information technology.
 - (4) A meeting shall have a quorum if at least nine members of the committee are present, including the chairman of the committee or his or her deputy.
 - (5) The first meeting of the committee shall be convened by a member of the committee appointed by the Minister for Climate. At the first meeting, the committee shall elect a chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary from among its members.
- [RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]

- (6) Materials on the agenda items to be discussed at a committee meeting shall be sent to committee members at least one week before the meeting.

§ 5. Minutes of the committee meeting

- (1) Minutes of committee meetings shall be taken in such a way that the text of the minutes enables the course of the discussion of the issues to be reconstructed.
 - (2) The minutes shall be signed by the chairman of the committee, or in his or her absence, by the deputy chairman, and by the minutestaker.
 - (3) The minutes shall include:
 - 1) the place, date and number of the meeting;
 - 2) the members of the committee present and absent;
 - 3) the invited persons present;
 - 4) the chairman and the minutes-taker of the meeting;
 - 5) the agenda;
 - 6) the course of the discussion of the issues;
 - 7) the voting results;
 - 8) the decision.
 - (4) The minutes can be viewed at the Ministry of Climate.
- [RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]

§ 6. Procedure for making decisions by the Commission

- (1) The committee shall adopt a decision on the matter under discussion at the meeting. The committee shall justify its decision.
- (2) Decisions of the committee shall be taken by simple majority vote. In the event of an equal division of votes, the vote of the chairman of the committee, or in his/her absence, the vote of the deputy chairman, shall be decisive.
- (3) During the substantive discussion of the issue and the making of a decision, only members of the committee shall participate in the session.
- (4) A member of the committee is required to notify the committee if he or she is directly or indirectly involved in an application to be discussed and this may affect the outcome of his or her vote. In such a case, the member of the committee shall not participate in the vote.
- (5) When reviewing an application for a permit to release a GMO into the environment or an application for a permit to market a GMO and a product, the Commission shall make a decision in accordance with subsection 11 (1) and subsection 20 (1) of the Act on the Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment.

§ 7. Procedure for the administration of the Commission

- (1) The affairs of the committee shall be organized by the secretary of the committee, whom the committee shall elect from among its members.
- (2) When organising the affairs of the committee, the secretary of the committee shall:
 - 1) prepare materials on the issues to be discussed at the meeting and notify the members of the committee and invited persons of the time and place of the meeting;
 - 2) ensure that minutes of the meetings are taken and that decisions, reports and other information adopted are sent to the members of the committee in a timely manner;

- 3) register all documents and applications received by the committee and organise the storage of the documentation;
 - 4) organise the transfer of the materials of the meetings for storage in the archives of the Ministry of Climate.
- [RT I, 05.07.2023, 1 - entry into force 08.07.2023]

(3) The technical services of the Commission shall be provided by the Ministry of Climate.

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(4) The correspondence of the Commission shall be conducted through the Office of the Ministry of Climate.

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§ 8. Coverage of expenses

The costs related to the activities of the committee, including the remuneration of the committee members, shall be covered from the budget of the Ministry of Climate.

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