



## STATEMENT

European Plant Science Organisation  
[www.epsoweb.org](http://www.epsoweb.org)

# Science Based Policy

---

01.09.2013

The European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) has published an important **Report on “Planting the future: opportunities and challenges for using crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agriculture”** which was launched on June 27, 2013, in Brussels. In the report, EASAC explores issues associated with the genetic modification of crops. The EU has fallen behind many other regions of the world in its adoption of **crop genetic improvement technologies**, primarily because of the slow and expensive way that the EU regulates GM organisms. The launch of the EASAC Report was accompanied by the publication of the article **“Europe should rethink its stance on GM crops”** in Nature written by Brian Heap (president of EASAC).

The overwhelming majority of EPSO members support the statement in the article that “Countries in the European Union (EU) are losing ground in the international race to grow more food on increasingly scarce land. This has serious and urgent implications for the EU science base and the environment, as well as for domestic food security, employment and economic growth”. Both the EASAC Report and the Nature article come to the conclusion that “The objective must be to regulate the product and not the technology that produces it.”

EPSO is a pro-science organization, and strongly supports EASAC’s view that the EU needs its decision-making on improved crops to be based on rational scientific criteria and evidence.

Members, EPSO General Meeting

---

### Contacts

Joachim Schiemann  
+49-394647503

[joachim.schiemann@jki.bund.de](mailto:joachim.schiemann@jki.bund.de)

Jonathan Jones  
+44-1603-450420

[jonathan.jones@sainsbury-laboratory.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.jones@sainsbury-laboratory.ac.uk)

EPSO Office  
+32-2213-6260

[epsos@epsomail.org](mailto:epsos@epsomail.org)

### Useful links

EASAC, 21.6.2013 : [www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/planting-the.html](http://www.easac.eu/home/reports-and-statements/detail-view/article/planting-the.html)

Brian Heap, Nature, 26.6.2013 : [www.nature.com/news/europe-should-rethink-its-stance-on-gm-crops-1.13265](http://www.nature.com/news/europe-should-rethink-its-stance-on-gm-crops-1.13265)

EPSO communications: [www.epsoweb.org/epsos-communications](http://www.epsoweb.org/epsos-communications)

EPSO member institutes and universities: [www.epsoweb.org/about/members.htm](http://www.epsoweb.org/about/members.htm)

EPSO representatives: [www.epsoweb.org/about/representatives.htm](http://www.epsoweb.org/about/representatives.htm)

**About EPSO**

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 227 research institutes, departments and universities from 30 countries in Europe and beyond. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe. [www.epsoweb.org](http://www.epsoweb.org)