

## **EFFCA Statement on Products using Gene Technology**

**To the best of EFFCA knowledge, genetically modified cultures are not available on the European market. If, however, such a product would be put forward, it would have to be authorised by the European Commission and should always be clearly indicated on the food product label to allow consumers to make an informed choice.**

### **Legal & regulatory environment**

To be used as a food or food ingredient, a living genetically modified micro-organism (GMM) would have to be authorised on the basis of the procedure under Directive 2001/18/EC and would be subject to traceability and labelling requirements pursuant to Regulations (EC) 1829/2003 and 1830/2003. The authorisation process would be carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Commission; the resulting decision would apply to all EU Member States. The labelling provides information for consumers and users of the product and allows them to make an informed choice:

- If any part of a product, whether it is the food itself or one of its ingredients has been derived from genetically modified material, it has to be labelled accordingly. This is based on the origin and not on the detectability of DNA. Labelling information is provided according to local applicable law (i.e. EU Food Labelling Directive (2000/13/EC)).
- Ingredients used as substrate for fermentation of cultures are not covered by the labelling directive on the condition that the genetically modified ingredient is metabolised or totally removed from the final food culture preparation.

EFFCA believes that the use of gene technology in food production can be an important tool if it helps to create better quality food products e.g. improved organoleptic properties or nutritional value, therefore enhancing consumer's health and pleasure of eating or enabling more efficient and/or environment-friendlier industrial processes. However, we respect the consumer's right to know and choose accordingly.

*This statement represents EFFCA's understanding of the existing European regulations and EFSA scientific work. The present information is given without any liability on the part of EFFCA*