



## **COFALEC statement**

### **“GMO and yeast applied in food & feed in EU”**

*February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

#### **Genetically modified organisms (GMO) – Definitions\***

GMOs are organisms whose genetic material (DNA) has been altered not by reproduction and/or natural recombination but by the introduction of a modified gene or a gene from another variety or species.

#### **Legal Context**

EU legislation aims to:

- protect human life, animal health and the environment by introducing a safety assessment of the highest possible standards at EU levels
- put in place harmonised procedures for risk assessment and authorisation of GMO's
- ensure clear labelling of GMO's placed on the market in order to enable consumers as well as professionals to make an informed choice
- ensure the traceability of GMOs placed on the market

Hence, EU legislation covers the use, dissemination, marketing, labelling and traceability of GMOs both in food and in animal feed. It also comprises common procedures for risk assessment and authorisation which are carried out by the European Food Safety Authority.

The definition of GMOs has been set by the Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001<sup>1</sup>, on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms.

Since April 18th, 2004, three regulations concerning GMOs have been brought into force:

- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed (Text with EEA relevance)
- Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC
- Regulation (EC) No 65/2004 on unique identifiers for genetically modified organisms

## **COFALEC position**

COFALEC members are open and transparent to their customers, about the nature of their products.

COFALEC members are not using GMO yeast in food and feed applications in the European Union.

They can confirm that they are aware of and fully adhere to Regulations (CE) 1829/2003 and 1830/2003, referring to the requirements for mandatory labelling and traceability of products derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in foodstuffs and feedstuffs.

**COFALEC recommends its members to inform their customers in that sense.**

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<sup>i</sup> Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC - Commission Declaration <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2001:106:TOC>