



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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WK 17336/2022 INIT

LIMITE

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Food and Food Systems (Pesticide Residues) Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products)
Subject:	Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products) on 7 December 2022 - Agenda item 1: Legislation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques – state of play

Following the Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products) on 7 December 2022, delegations will find in annex the presentation given by the Commission services, on the above subject.

Legislation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques – state of play

*European Commission
DG Health and Food Safety*

*Council Working Party PPPs
7 December 2022*



What are New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)?

- Techniques, capable of altering the genetic material of an organism, that have emerged or have been developed since 2001, when Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment was adopted
- Diverse group of techniques to achieve different results, from limited changes that could also occur in nature or with conventional breeding to multiple and more extensive modifications.



Mutagenesis

Changes without insertion of genetic material

Cisgenesis

Insertion of genetic material from organisms that are sexually compatible

Transgenesis

Insertion of genetic material from other organisms that are sexually incompatible

Context of the Commission initiative



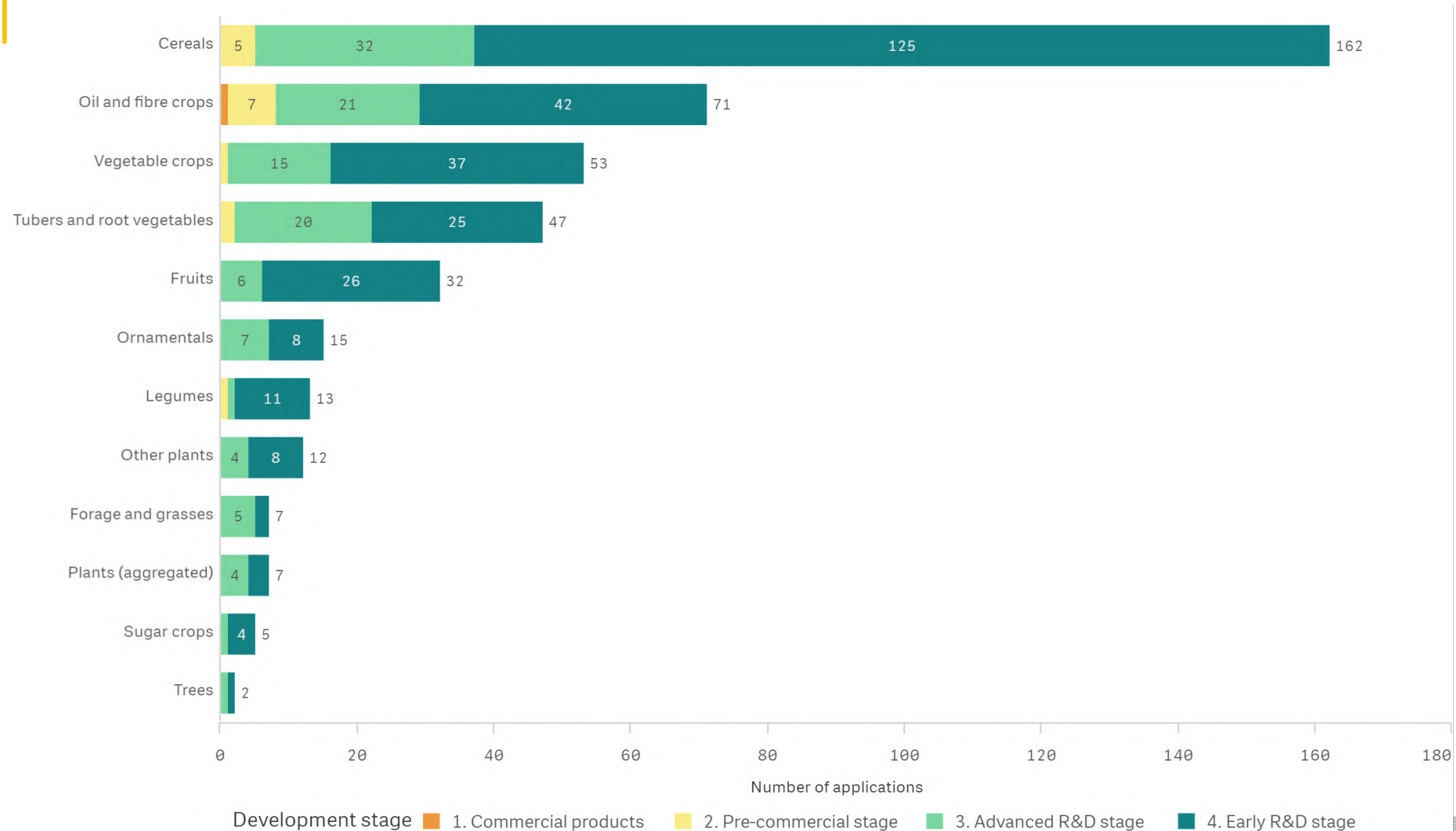
April 2021 - Commission study
on new genomic techniques

Commission study on new genomic techniques*

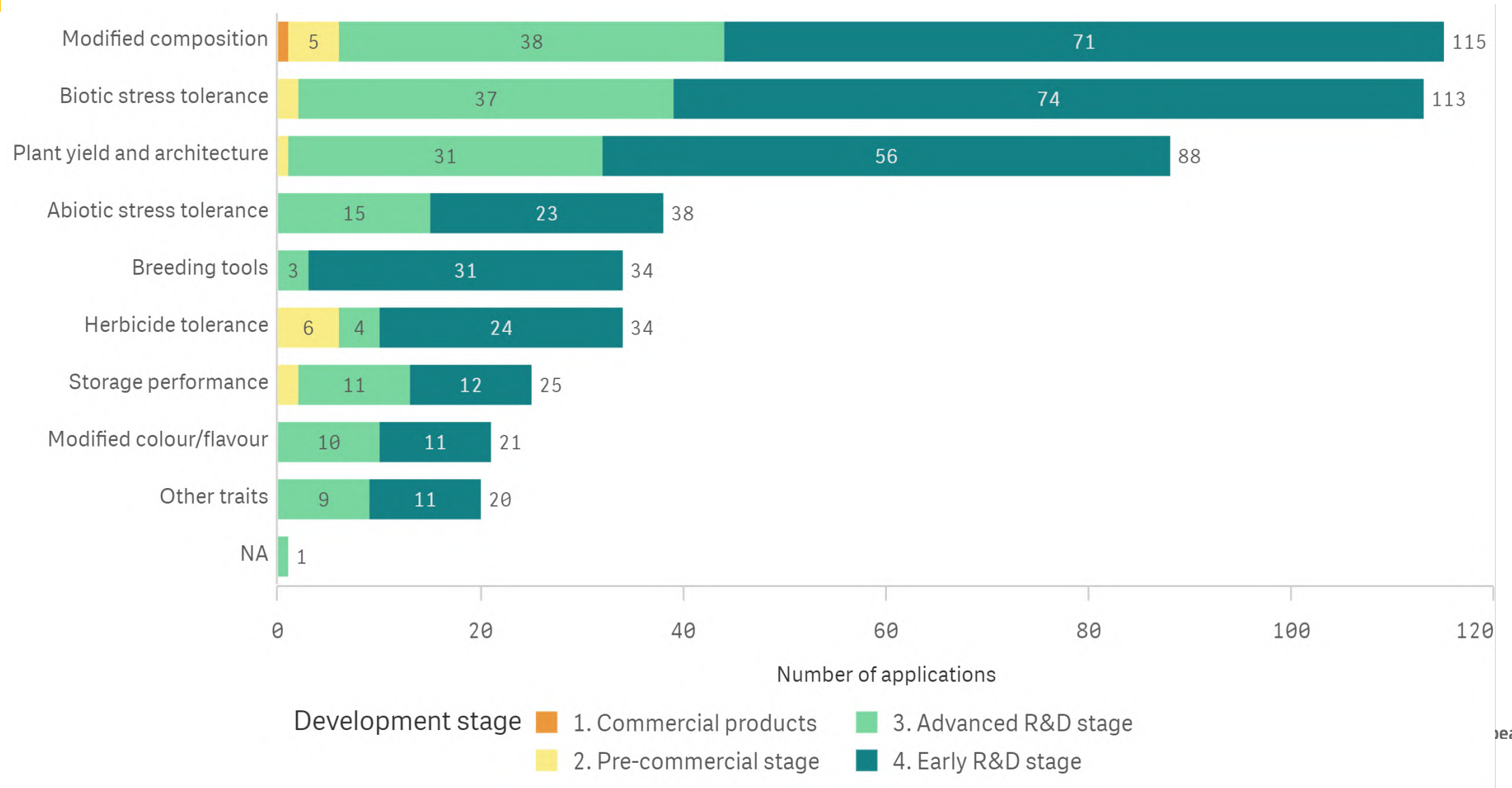
- ✓ Strong interest in the EU and globally in NGT products
- ✓ Current regulatory oversight and risk assessment requirements are not tailored to diverse risk profiles and have implementation and enforcement challenges.
- ✓ NGTs can contribute to Green Deal and Farm to Fork objectives, as well as to a more competitive economy.
- ✓ Reported concerns on possible negative impacts on the environment, consumers' right to information and coexistence with the organic and GM-free sector.

* https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-04/gmo_mod-bio_ngt_eu-study.pdf

NGTs plants – applications by crop groups (JRC study 2021)



NGT plants – applications by traits (JRC study 2021)



Other available databases



European Sustainable Agriculture
Through Genome Editing

Interactive, publicly accessible
online database of genome edited
crop plants as described in peer-
reviewed scientific publications

<https://www.eu-sage.eu/genome-search>

TRAITS CATEGORIES

☐

Traits related to increased plant yield and growth (143)

☐

Traits related to improved food/feed quality (141)

☐

Traits related to biotic stress tolerance (115)

☐

Traits related to industrial utilization (91)

☐

Traits related to herbicide tolerance (49)

☐

Traits related to abiotic stress tolerance (47)

☐

Traits related to product color/flavour (38)

☐

Traits related to storage performance (13)

Scope and objectives of the Commission's initiative



Scope

Plants, and their food and feed products, produced by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis

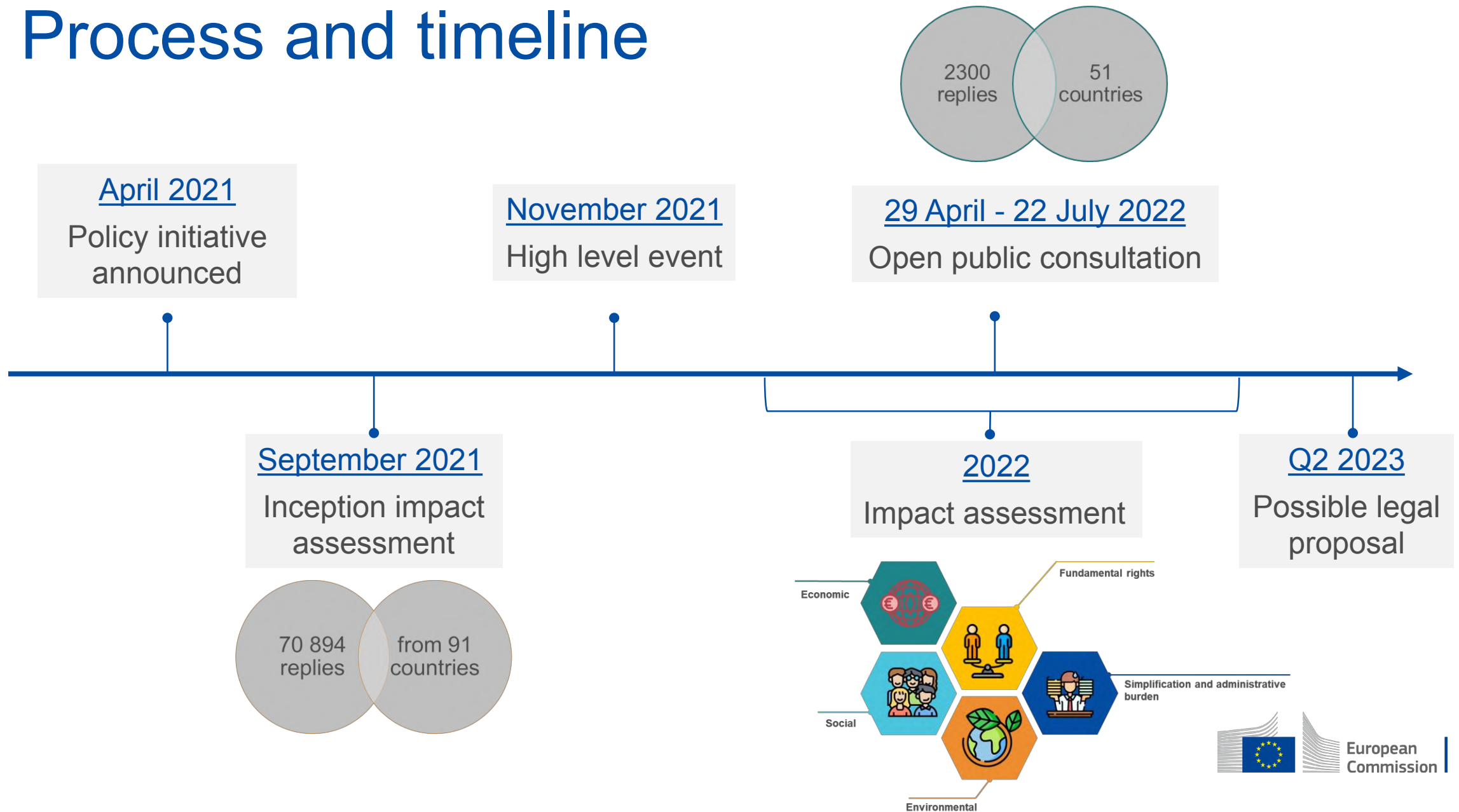


Objectives

Ensure high level of protection of human and animal health and the environment

Reap benefits from innovation, in particular to contribute to the goals of the Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy

Process and timeline



Impact assessment: Policy approaches examined



Risk
assessment and
approval



Sustainability



Traceability



Information

Impact assessment



- Open public consultation
- Targeted stakeholder consultation (survey, interviews, focus groups)
- EFSA and JRC technical contributions

Thank you

Follow the initiative at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13119-Legislation-for-plants-produced-by-certain-new-genomic-techniques>

https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/new-techniques-biotechnology_en



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Slide 2 : picture, source: Gettyimages. Slides 8, 9, 10 and 11: icons, source: Flaticon.