

Opinion of the United Kingdom

Draft Commission Decision on the placing on the market of Florigene's carnation lines IFD-25958-3 and IFD-26407-2 genetically modified for petal colour and herbicide tolerance

March 2015

1. The scope of the consent is for the import, distribution and retailing of cut carnation flowers.
2. The notification to market these GM carnation lines IFD-25958-3 and IFD-26407-2 were made in 2009 by Florigene Ltd. under Directive 2001/18/EC to the Netherlands competent authority. These are now at the second stage of the EU decision making process, i.e., they have been assessed by the lead Member State (Netherlands) and Member States have had the opportunity to comment.
3. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) first considered this application in September 2009 and advised that consent should be issued. In December 2009 ACRE assessed the further information received from the applicant (requested by other Member States). This information did not change their original opinion. The application passed to the Regulatory Committee.
4. The 2001/18 Regulatory Committee comprises officials from each EU Member State and is chaired by the Commission. It takes decisions on matters concerning the operation of the Directive on the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment. On the 16 March 2015 it will discuss Florigene's application to import cut carnation flowers genetically modified for petal colour and herbicide tolerance.
5. Based on the advice of ACRE, the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, the UK issued an opinion to the European Commission on the notification to market GM carnation lines IFD-25958-3 and IFD-26407-2 in December 2009. This supported the Netherlands proposal to issue consent for this GM carnation line.