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From Owen Paterson MP
Secretary of State for Agriculture and Food

The Government's Agri-Tech Strategy published in July demonstrated our commitment to expanding and capitalising upon the UK's world class plant science base. We want to use the Strategy to encourage further investment in the solutions needed to address the global challenges of food security, hunger alleviation and the sustainable intensification of agriculture.

One of those solutions, GM technology, has great potential and promise but the hostile regulatory environment in Europe means it's a tool that's essentially locked away in the toolbox. My speech on 20 June clearly set out the government's stance on this issue and I am keen that we take every opportunity to make progress on it.

I would therefore like to meet with senior BASF executives to discuss your reaction to the Agri-Tech Strategy and to discuss EU and UK market prospects for GM crops. If you are amenable to this I would be grateful if you could liaise with my diary secretary on 0207 238 5343 to make the necessary arrangements

THE RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP