Simplification of rules on fermentation using GMMs

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Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations 999/2001, 1829/2003, 1831/2003, 852/2004, 853/2004, 396/2005, 1099/2009, 1107/2009, 528/2012, 2017/625 as regards the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements

What is changing and why?

Genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs) can be used in fermentation to make food or animal feed. In these cases the micro-organisms are removed during production, but their residues may still remain in the final product. There has been some uncertainty among food companies and European Union (EU) authorities about whether these food and feed products should be considered as "produced from genetically modified organisms (GMOs)" – in which case they would need to be assessed and authorised under the EU's GMO Regulation.

The European Commission proposes to remove this confusion by clarifying that food and feed produced using GMMs in fermentation processes should not be considered as "produced from GMOs", as long as any remaining traces in the final product meet certain safety conditions.

Actions

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the World Trade Organization can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until **30 March 2026**.

All interested stakeholders are invited to give feedback via **Have your say** platform until **14 May 2026** (but may be extended).

Stakeholders wishing to respond must be registered. Those who do not already have an account will first need to **Create an EU login account**, then register their organisation on the EU **Transparency register**.

Timeline

This proposal has entered a process of discussion and adoption by the Council of the EU (Member States) and the European Parliament, a process that can take up to 2 years.

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