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**Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Jany**  
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Brussels. 17. 07 2017  
ARES(2017) 359/1610

Dear Professor Jany,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June 2017 to President Juncker, regarding the draft authorisations for the cultivation of maize MON 810, Bt11 and 1507. In this letter - sent not only on behalf of Wissenschaftlerkreis Grüne Gentechnik e.V., but also of other organisations and of a number of eminent scientists - you note that some Member States do not live up to the responsibility assigned to them in the EU legal framework.

I fully share this assessment. For this reason, the Commission recently adopted a proposal with a view to amending the 'Comitology' Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, to address those cases where it is obliged to adopt a decision without the support of a qualified majority of the Member States. The objective of this proposal, addressed to the European Parliament and to the Council, is to increase transparency and accountability in the EU decision-making process.

I would like to confirm that I am fully committed to ensuring that the Commission adopts science-based decisions in all areas under my responsibility, ranging from pesticides to GMOs, novel food to additives or contaminants. Since the very beginning of my mandate however, I have been concerned by the level of mistrust expressed by civil society towards science.

I believe scientists have a major role to play in communicating with the public about risk and science to ensure that European citizens benefit from the knowledge and pedagogy of the scientific community. I would therefore urge you, and your colleagues, to participate fully in this important task.

Yours sincerely,

