



**EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Dear Mr Lochhead,

The European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB) is deeply concerned about the news of a Scottish Government proposal to ban cultivation of genetically modified crops based upon prejudice rather than on scientific evidence. We are aware that many Scottish colleagues and other European organisations signed appeals to ask your Government not to put forward such a proposal.

The EFB connects more than 30,000 scientists, working with institutions and research centres to promote the safe, ethical and sustainable development of biotechnology to the benefit of society, respectful of culture and social demands. We totally support the need to protect local, high quality producers. Biotechnology offers many options to preserve and defend local varieties, which represent your territory and your traditions. Technology and quality are not in conflict with each other, as it appears in your statement.

In the interest of citizens, EFB believes that public policies should always be based on scientific evidence. There are many evidence-based, scientific arguments for you to reconsider your position, starting with 20 years of results from publicly funded research projects on safety and the advantages of genetically modified crops. GM crops offer countless options for treating typical cultivars affected by pathogens, in nutritional enrichment, and in the sustainable production of renewable materials. Purely on economical grounds banning present and future innovation in food, agriculture or materials would prevent future Scottish development in those areas. We therefore urge the Scottish National Party to reconsider its position, and not submit such a proposal. Your Government surely wants a competitive Scotland, playing a role in Europe and able to propose innovative solutions to the World. Banning GM crops will not allow you to reach this goal, and will risk the future of Scottish science, with a negative impact on innovation, on farmers, on the price of materials, and ultimately on Scottish citizens.

Signed on behalf of the EFB Executive Board.