Dear Commissioner,

My Committee has recently produced a report called *Advanced genetic techniques for crop improvement: regulation, risk and precaution*. These reports are usually produced for the purpose of making recommendation to the UK Government. In this case there are several areas which would be more appropriately answered directly by the Commission. I am hoping that you would ensure this Committee receives a response to those comments and recommendations.

The key recommendations to which I would direct your attention are those covering EU regulation and agricultural innovation. Most specifically the recommendations on details on

- how the precautionary principle is engaged within the system (paragraphs 53, 100, 102 and 103);
- whether the current system is fit for purpose (paragraphs 59, 70 and 71);
- what level of Government should be making risk decisions (paragraph 85); and
- whether potential benefits should be weighed against potential damage (paragraph 77).

We would be delighted if you sought to comment more widely on the report and your thoughts on the role of communicating details of science more effectively to the public would be invaluable.

I look forward to meeting you later this month and to seeing, in due course, a response to this report by the Commission.

Andrew Miller
Chair