



Republic of Bulgaria
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER

20 May 2016

Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
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Министерство на околната среда и водите
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Subject: Reply of Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water to **Notification 2016-058**

Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/MPM/DA/85215

Dear Dr Ferreira de Souza Dias,

The EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the updating of the current Guidance on Risk Assessment (the Roadmap) should take priority over the development of further guidance. When selecting topics for possible further guidance, we consider it important to assess their practical relevance to the objective of Cartagena Protocol. In this context, we note the recommendation of the AHTEG on risk assessment and risk management to develop outlines for further Guidance.

Bulgarian competent authority is of the opinion that when new topics for development of Guidance on Risk Assessment are chosen following should be taken into consideration:

1. Whether the topic is already relevant or going to be relevant in near future to the objective of Cartagena Protocol. Development of Guidance documents on LMOs that are on the market or are expected to enter commercial use should take priority over those documents on LMOs at early stages of development.
2. Areas undergoing rapid scientific and technological development should be approached with care, because by the time the Guidance documents are developed they may not reflect the field accurately.
3. The topics chosen should be specific, but not covering very broad or poorly defined area.
4. When Guidance documents on Risk Assessment on a given topic have been developed by other national, regional and international bodies, their practical relevance to the objective of Cartagena Protocol should be evaluated and when possible they should be endorsed with the necessary changes.

Yours sincerely,


BOYKO MALINOV
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER