



Ref.: SCBD/BS/XW/jh/36144

16 June 2003

Re: Designation of national focal point, competent national authority, and contact point under Article 17, for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety no later than the date of entry into force of the Protocol

Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will enter into force on 11 September 2003.

I wish to draw your attention to Articles 17 and 19 of the Protocol in which Parties to the Protocol are required to transmit the following information to the Secretariat no later than the date of entry into force of the Protocol.

- *National focal points and competent national authority (Article 19)*

The Protocol requires each Party to designate one national focal point to be responsible for liaison with the Secretariat, and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for performing the administrative functions required by the Protocol. A Party may designate a single entity to fulfill the functions of both focal point and competent national authority.

Accordingly, each Party needs to notify the Secretariat of the names and addresses of the focal point and the competent national authority or authorities. The notification should also include relevant information on the responsibilities of each authority in the case where more than one competent national authority has been designated, including at a minimum, the type of LMOs that each is responsible for.

To: National Focal Points of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

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- *Contact point for notification on unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (Article 17)*

Each Party is required to make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House, the relevant details of its point of contact for the purpose of receiving notifications concerning any occurrence that leads or may lead to unintentional transboundary movement of an LMO that is likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health in such States.

Therefore, Parties need to inform the Secretariat of details of such point of contact as required under Article 17.

I would appreciate it if you could provide the Secretariat with the above information as soon as possible, but not later than 11 September 2003.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary