

THE INTERIM NATIONAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL
ON BIOSAFETY IN **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Origin of report

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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting report:	
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Summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report:

Process for preparing Interim National Report (thereinafter INR) starts after the MOP/2, during the June 2005. Involved were mainly the people and institutions, which were involved also for execution of UNEP-GEF project for Developing the National Legislative Framework:

MoE – biosafety department staff ; Slovak Biosafety Committee; Comenius University Bratislava; Institute of Molecular Biology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences; Modern Biotechnology and Society (NGO); Slovak Consumers Union (NGO)

Used materials:

Final report of UNEP-GEF project for Developing the NLF; quarterly reports from PHARE – Twinning Project for building up of Biosafety Monitoring System; proposal of Interim National Report of European Union; reports and presentations made by Biosafety Department of MoE staff

Obligations for provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. Several articles of the Protocol require that information be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House (see the list below). For your Government, if there are cases where relevant information exists but has not been provided to the BCH, describe any obstacles or impediments encountered regarding provision of that information (note: To answer this question, please check the BCH to determine the current status of your country's information submissions relative to the list of required information below. If you do not have access to the BCH, contact the Secretariat for a summary):

Slovakia is using the Central portal of BCH placed in Secretariat of CBD. In the Slovak page are published this information:

Contacts of CA and CP-NFP; Act on use of genetic technologies and GMOs No. 151/2002 and Decree No. 252/2002 to the Act (in English); Decision on approving of GM product on the market.

Above mentioned information was published till May 1st 2004, when Slovakia starts to be a member of European Union (thereinafter EU). From that date all information are published by EU BCH.

Information required to be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

- (a) Existing national legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20.3(a))
- (b) National laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.5);
- (c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1);
- (d) Contact details for competent national authorities (Articles 19.2 and 19.3), national focal points (Articles 19.1 and 19.3), and emergency contacts (Article 17.2 and 17.3(e));
- (e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2 and 19.3);
- (f) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20.3(e));
- (g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17.1);
- (h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25.3);
- (i) Final decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs (i.e. approval or prohibition, any conditions, requests for further information, extensions granted, reasons for decision) (Articles 10.3 and 20.3(d));
- (j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14.4);
- (k) Final decisions regarding the domestic use of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.1);
- (l) Final decisions regarding the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing that are taken under domestic regulatory frameworks (Article 11.4) or in accordance with Annex III (Article 11.6) (requirement of Article 20.3(d))
- (m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.6)

- (n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12.1);
- (o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13.1)
- (p) Cases where intentional transboundary movement may take place at the same time as the movement is notified to the Party of import (Article 13.1); and
- (q) Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information regarding products thereof (Article 20.3(c)).

Article 2 – General provisions

2. Has your country introduced the necessary legal, administrative and other measures for implementation of the Protocol? (Article 2.1)	
a) full domestic regulatory framework in place (please give details below)	x
b) some measures introduced (please give details below)	
c) no measures yet taken	
3. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 2, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
<p>In Slovakia are in force legislative documents in two categories:</p> <p>1. National legislative documents, which implements EU directives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act on use of genetic technologies and GMOs No. 151/2002 Coll., in force by April 1st 2002, amended by the Act No. 77/2005 Coll. as of April 1st 2005, • Decree No. 252/2002 Coll. to the Act 151/2002, in force as of June 1st 2002, which will be amended by the end of 2005 <p>The relevant legislation covering wide range of application of GMO is as follows:</p> <p>Act No 23/2003 Coll. that amends Act 159/1995 Coll. on food.</p> <p>Food Codex, decree 1865/2001-100, §142a on obligatory labelling foods containing GMO is in line with EU legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act No 470/2002 Coll. that amends Act no. 291/1996 Coll. on varieties and seeds. - Act No 184/93 Coll. on feedstuffs (with three ordinances from January 2002; on ingredients used; on technical equipment and special nutritional value indicators; on use of additives). - Act No 415/2002 Coll., which amends Act No 224/98 Coll. on organic farming. - Act No 415/2002 Coll. 471/2001, which amends Act No 285/95 Coll. on phytosanitary care. - Act No 23/2003 Coll., which amends Act 159/1995 Coll. on food. - Food Codex, decree 1865/2001-100, §142a on obligatory labelling foods containing GMO with line with EU legislation. - Act No 514/ 2002 Coll., which amends Act No 272/1994 Coll. on the protection of human health. - Act No 367/2001 Coll. on the safety and protection of human health at the workplace. - Governmental Decree No 47/2002 Coll. on the health protection while working with biological factors. <p>2. Legislative adopted for all EU member states</p> <p>List of valid EU legislative document quod vide in EU Interim National Report (EU INR)</p>	

Articles 7 to 10 and 12: The advance informed agreement procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

4. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by exporters <u>1/</u> under the jurisdiction of your country? (Article 8.2)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	
5. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, did you request any Party of import to review a decision it had made under Article 10 on the grounds specified in Article 12.2?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	x
6. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 9.2(c).	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	x
7. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of export	
8. If your country has taken decisions on import of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of export For details see the EU INR	

1/ The use of terms in the questions follows the meanings accorded to them under Article 3 of the Protocol

Article 11 – Procedure for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

9. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by the applicant with respect to the domestic use of a living modified organism that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.2)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
c) not applicable (please give details below)	
10. Has your country indicated its needs for financial and technical assistance and capacity building in respect of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.9)	
a) yes (please give details below)	x
b) no	
c) not relevant	
11. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 11.4?	
a) yes	x
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	
12. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of export	
13. If your country has been a Party of import of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
One decision was issued before Slovakia's EU membership. For later time see details in EU INR	

Article 13 – Simplified procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

14. If your country has used the simplified procedure during the reporting period, please describe your experiences in implementing Article 13, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

Not applicable - simplified procedure was not used
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Article 14 – Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

15. If your country has entered into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements, describe your experiences in implementing Article 14 during the reporting period, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
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No bilateral agreements; for more detail see EU INR

Articles 15 and 16 – Risk assessment and risk management

16. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, were risk assessments carried out for all decisions taken under Article 10? (Article 15.2)	
a) yes	x
b) no (please clarify below)	
c) not a Party of import	
17. If yes, did you require the exporter to carry out the risk assessment?	
a) yes – in all cases	x
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	
18. If you took a decision under Article 10 during the reporting period, did you require the notifier to bear the cost of the risk assessment? (Article 15.3)	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	x
19. Has your country established and maintained appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks identified in the risk assessment provisions of the Protocol? (Article 16.1)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
20. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
21. Does your country endeavour to ensure that any living modified organism, whether imported or locally developed, undergoes an appropriate period of observation commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use? (Article 16.4)	
a) yes – in all cases	x
b) yes – in some cases (please give further details below)	
c) no (please give further details below)	
d) not applicable (please give further details below)	

22. Has your country cooperated with others for the purposes specified in Article 16.5?	
a) yes (please give further details below)	x
b) no (please give further details below)	
23. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Articles 15 and 16, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
For details see the EU INR	

Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

24. During the reporting period, if there were any occurrences under your jurisdiction that led, or could have led, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that had, or could have had, significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health in such States, did you immediately consult the affected or potentially affected States for the purposes specified in Article 17.4?	
a) yes – all relevant States immediately	
b) partially (please clarify below)	
c) no (please clarify below)	x
25. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 17, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Not applicable	

Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification

26. Has your country taken measures to require that living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement within the scope of the Protocol are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into account relevant international rules and standards? (Article 18.1)	
a) yes (please give details below)	x
b) no	
c) not applicable (please clarify below)	
27. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, clearly identifies that they ‘may contain’ living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for information? (Article 18.2(a))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
28. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are destined for contained use clearly identifies them as living modified organisms and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the living modified organisms are consigned? (Article 18.2(b))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
29. Has your country adopted measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import and any other living modified organisms within the scope of the Protocol, clearly identifies them as living modified organisms; specifies the identity and relevant traits and/or characteristics, any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the importer and exporter; and contains a declaration that the movement is in conformity with the requirements of this Protocol applicable to the exporter? (Article 18.2(c))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
30. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country’s experiences and progress in implementing Article 18, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
For details see the EU INR	

Article 19 – Competent national authorities and national focal points

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Article 20 – Information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

31. In addition to the response to question 1, please describe any further details regarding your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 20, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

For more details on current situation see the EU INR

Article 21 – Confidential information

32. Does your country have procedures to protect confidential information received under the Protocol and that protect the confidentiality of such information in a manner no less favourable than its treatment of confidential information in connection with domestically produced living modified organisms? (Article 21.3)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
33. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, did you permit any notifier to identify information submitted under the procedures of the Protocol or required by the Party of import as part of the advance informed agreement procedure that was to be treated as confidential? (Article 21.1)	
a) yes	
If yes, please give number of cases	
b) no	x
c) not applicable – not a Party of import	
34. If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide information on your experience including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:	
35. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, please describe any impediments or difficulties encountered by you, or by exporters under your jurisdiction if information is available, in the implementation of the requirements of Article 21:	
Not applicable – not a Party of export	

Article 22 – Capacity-building

36. If a developed country Party, during this reporting period has your country cooperated in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and in Parties with economies in transition?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a developed country Party	x
37. If yes, how has such cooperation taken place:	
Not applicable	
38. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the proper and safe management of biotechnology to the extent that it is required for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	x
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
b) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	
39. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the use of risk assessment and risk management for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	x
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	

40. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training for enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	x
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	
41. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 22, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
<p>Slovakia is still in category of a “Party with an economy in transition”. During the implementing period of the Cartagena Protocol was in Slovakia carried out projects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matra project “Implementation of Biosafety Frameworks in Central and Eastern Europe Countries”, covered by Government of Netherlands, 1998 - 2001 - PHARE – Twinning project No. SR99/IB/EN/01 “Institutional strengthening and support of approximation and transposition of environmental legislation of the SR with EU”, covered by EU; the counterpart in project was Italy, 2001 - 2002 - UNEP-GEF project “Developing of NBF”, 2003 – 2004 - PHARE – Twinning project No. SR03/IBEN/02 “Biosafety Monitoring System”, covered by EU, counterpart in project was Austria, 2004 - 2005 <p>With help of experts involved to above mentioned projects and additional meetings and trainings organized by European institutes and UNEP-GEF staff was successfully build-up the biosafety regulatory system – legislative and administrative structure and (partly) monitoring system</p>	

Article 23 – Public awareness and participation

42. Does your country promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health? (Article 23.1(a))	
a) yes – significant extent	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
43. If yes, do you cooperate with other States and international bodies?	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) no	
44. Does your country endeavour to ensure that public awareness and education encompass access to information on living modified organisms identified in accordance with the Protocol that may be imported? (Article 23.1(b))	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
45. Does your country, in accordance with its respective laws and regulations, consult the public in the decision-making process regarding living modified organisms and make the results of such decisions available to the public? (Article 23.2)	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
46. Has your country informed its public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House? (Article 23.3)	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
47. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 23, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
<p>The web-page of MoE SR is used for public information in national level so far (www.enviro.gov.sk). Also www.gmo.sk is available for public with common information on biotechnologies. This page is prepared for transformation as NBCH. For more information on EU level see EU INR.</p>	

Article 24 – Non-Parties

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

48. If there have been transboundary movements of living modified organisms between your country and a non-Party, please provide information on your experience, including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:
It was no transboundary movement of LMO during the reporting period

Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

49. Has your country adopted appropriate domestic measures to prevent and penalize, as appropriate, transboundary movements of living modified organisms carried out in contravention of its domestic measures? (Article 25.1)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
50. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 25, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Act on GMO No. 151/2002 Coll. as amended - §17/1/c – duty on approval for transboundary movement of LMOs, - § 28/2/j – penalty for unapproved transboundary movement of LMOs	

Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations

51. If during this reporting period your country has taken a decision on import, did it take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.1)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	
52. Has your country cooperated with other Parties on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, especially on indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.2)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) no	
53. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 26, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
<p>The main aspect in the risk assessment process is the assessment of potential influence to the environment and to the human health.</p> <p>The act on co-existence of GM and non-GM farming is under the preparation at the present time.</p>	

Article 28 – Financial mechanism and resources

54. Please indicate if, during the reporting period, your government made financial resources available to other Parties or received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions, for the purposes of implementation of the Protocol.	
a) yes – made financial resources available to other Parties	
b) yes – received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions	x
c) both	
d) neither	
55. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
It is described in details in the table 41. – Capacity building	

Other information

56. Please use this box to provide any other information related to articles of the Protocol, questions in the reporting format, or other issues related to national implementation of the Protocol:

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Comments on reporting format

The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Protocol. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions:

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