

Access to Information with respect to genetically modified organisms

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Almaty Amendment

- Acceptance by Albania, Sept 2020
- one more country needed: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Ukraine.

Where are we now?

- “share good practices, recent policy and legislative developments and case studies [...] identify existing challenges, possible further developments and contribute to the update of the recommended electronic information tools”

Round Tables on GMOs

- Effective access to information is key for effective public participation.
- Access to information needs to be provided pro-actively incl. raw data
- Information needs to be complete, correct, and reusable
- Information about new genetic engineering methods need to be included

Access to information is not a goal in it self.

It is the basis
for the two other goals of the Convention

Electronic Information tools

- Electronic access to information is important.
- It is even more important for GMOs because they are not restricted to one location.
- Interoperability and cooperation
- Cooperation with the Biosafety Clearing House of the CBD

Challenges

- Confidentiality must not be assumed
- New methods of genetic engineering (CRISPR, Synthetic biology, gene drives) have to be included.

Access to information is
not only a technical question of tools,
but a question of political will.

Ways forward

We need

- ratification of Almaty Amendment,
- accessible, open, reusable & complete information,
- information on Synthetic biology and other new technologies,
- political will.