



Third Joint Aarhus Convention / Convention on Biological Diversity Round Table on Public Awareness, Access to Information and Public Participation regarding Living Modified Organisms/Genetically Modified Organisms

Geneva, 16-18 December 2019



Status of ratification the Amendment on GMOs to the Aarhus Convention

31 Parties

Two more ratifications are required from among the 10 Parties to the Convention that were Parties at the time the amendment was adopted for the GMO amendment to enter into force:

i.e.; **Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine**



Aarhus Convention Parties to the GMO Amendment

Austria	Georgia	Norway
Belgium	Germany	Poland
Bulgaria	Hungary	Portugal
Cyprus	Ireland	Republic of Moldova
Czechia	Italy	Romania
Denmark	Latvia	Slovakia
Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia
European Union	Luxembourg	Spain
Finland	Malta	Sweden
France	Netherlands	Switzerland
		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Challenges encountered by Parties

Among challenges, the following were reported by Parties through latest National Implementation Reports, at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (2017) and the two latest meetings of the Working Group of the Parties (2018 and 2019)

- Need to better understand GMO products and their impact on the environment through capacity building activities
- Need to raise awareness among State bodies and the public about the GMO Amendment
- Availability of all necessary and accurate information on GMOs



Challenges encountered by Parties

- Lack of accredited laboratories
- Absence of information on the methodology of risk assessment of GMOs
- Difficulties of finding independent experts to prepare risk assessments related to GMO decision-making
- Availability of expert opinions to participate effectively during GMO decision-making