

**The intervention of Ilya Trombitsky
(European ECO-Forum/EEB/Eco-TIRAS)
on the GMO issue at the MOP WG, 01/07/2020**

Dear Chair,

The European Eco-Forum again attracts the Aarhus Parties' attention to the weak approach of some of them to the necessity of urgent entering into force of the Almaty GMO amendment by its ratification. The only two ratifications from those Parties are required in order for the GMO amendment to enter into force.

We like to note that only a small number of the EECCA counties have finished the ratification process and invite them to do it until the MOP7. At the same time, we attract attention that during reporting for the MOP7 the Parties should reflect their activities in the implementation of the Art. 6(11), but better – also 6 bis with the Annex, and our recommendation is to reflect there also the difficulties of implementation.

I like to especially attract the attention of the EaP countries that the Almaty amendment already became a part of the EU legislation, so it will be good in their national legislation to do direct references to the harmonization with this amendment for its transposition and especially invite for that Ukraine which Association Agreement with the EU obliges to reflect the Almaty amendment provisions in their national legislation as a part of the EU legislation. The decision-making process on GMO issues should be transparent also according to Art. 23 of the Cartagena Protocol, so the GMO and products labeling, the data on national GMO decision-making processes should be inclusive, for example, via the creation of mixed consultative bodies like biosafety committees, etc.

At the same time, we like to attract the attention of the EU that such counties usually need technical assistance in the evaluation of the factual biosafety situation in the field, as well as the establishment of an efficient inter-departmental situation, but their external support in this field is very weak. The same could be noted concerning the complete lack of funding of the decision-making process support for the civil society, which produces no transparency and no adequate information of the public.

Thank you for attention!