

Report on progress achieved in the process of ratification of the GMO amendment.

WGP-26 Aarhus Convention

Thank you, dear Chair, for the question and giving me the floor.

It is my pleasure to inform that Republic of Armenia, as party to the Convention at the time the amendment was adopted, emphasizes the importance of public awareness and participation in decision-making on the deliberate (intentional) release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms.

Considering the potential threat to human health, as well as protection, improvement, restoration of environment and the interests of future generations a draft law has been developed. The purpose of the law is to regulate the use of GMOs in the Republic of Armenia and to ensure biosafety, excluding any adverse effects on the environment, biodiversity, human life and health.

The draft law, with a package of relevant amendments to the related laws, was circulated among stakeholders and submitted to the Prime Minister's Office for review.

A new draft law on Ecological Information has been developed, which regulates the availability of information related to the environment.

In 2018, a Working Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity was set up, the agenda of which includes the exclusion of the release of GMOs into the environment or the market, as well as ensuring the availability of this information to the public. In 2018, a Working Group on Biosafety and Biosecurity was set up, the agenda of which includes the exclusion of the release of GMOs into the environment and the placing on the market.

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As it is stated in the Cartagena Protocol any information on living modified organisms that are intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, In case of obtaining GMO as a result of any experiment in laboratories, should be fill on the electronic platform developed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Since 2021, with the involvement of international experts, trainings have been conducted for key stakeholders: representatives of state and scientific institutions, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, on establishment of national procedures and operational linkages to gather information to be placed on the BCH in line with national biosafety policy and biosafety framework.

These are the main actions taken in previous years to provide a solid basis for ratification of the GMO amendment in the nearest future.

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