



370073 Azərbaycan, Bakı, B.Ağayev küç., 100-A

B.Aghayev Str. 100-A, 370073 Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel:(99412) 92-59-07, Faks:(99412) 92-59-07

Tel:(99412) 92-59-07, Fax:(99412) 92-59-07

№ 4/1393-08
29 . 06 2004 -cü il

Dear Jeremy Wates,

In accordance with the outcome of the Third Meeting of new Working group on Genetically Modified Organisms, held in March 23-26 2004, I would like to express opinion of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic:

**Option 1 of Chairperson is more reliable for our country:
Deletion of article 6, paragraph 11 and inclusion of GMOs in annex 1**

In addition we suggest you information about country's current situation on biotechnology and GMO.

The geographical position of Azerbaijan Republic on the boundary of Europe and Asia, caused the development of very diversified ecosystems and agro-ecosystems, and country has recognized as one of the 25 most important global hot spots due to its high biodiversity.

Azerbaijan has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and all documents are collected for ratification of Cartagena Protocol and these documents are insight state procedure and in nearest future will be ratified by Parliament. Azerbaijan is also a party of the Aarhus Convention, the Eespool Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context and other relevant conventions. But country despite of this country has not yet legislation relating to biotechnology.

The sphere of biotechnology and GMO which seems likely to change the features of the world is very young for Azerbaijan and in this case in Azerbaijan has not been carried out any fundamental biotechnological research. Azerbaijan makes just small attempts to learn the nature of GMO but these researches are not organized and not controlled. For example in 22th April 2004 in Baku with participation of representatives of FAO, EU, ministries and scientific institutes was held National Workshop called "Corresponding of legislation of Azerbaijan to the EU standarts". At this meeting have been discussed amendments to the current legislation about grain growing. The amendment to this law concerning use GMO in grain growing has been developed and now considered in corresponding departments.

The challenge following extremely is lack of information of the population in the field of modern biotechnology. The population of the country has got used to use fresh products as climatic conditions of the country allow to raise different kinds of plants and animals and the country does not have necessity to deliver genetically modified organisms. At the same time the country is not against to study experience of the advanced countries in this area and is ready to cooperate with these countries.

But for this purpose it is necessary that wide public keep abreast of occurring processes, and also it is necessary to develop the local legislation in sphere of biotechnology.

At the given stage for Azerbaijan first of all it is necessary:

1. The edition of corresponding laws and positions

" The state control and regulation of gen-engineering activity and use GMO "

" About the state control over biosafety "

" About standardization in biotechnology and bioengineering "

To reveal criteria, parameters and methods of an estimation of biosafety GMO and organisms received from it

" Medical and biologic estimation of the food production received from GMO "

2. Acquaintance of the public in the field of biosafety

Sincerely,

Issa Aliyev

Head of International
Cooperation Department
Ministry of Ecology and Natural
Resources of Azerbaijan Republic