Joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Second Round Table on Public Awareness, Access to Information and Public Participation regarding LMOs/GMOs

Ratification and implementation of the Aarhus Convention’s Almaty Amendment on GMOs and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: challenges and good practices
Ratification

2008
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

2015
GMO Amendment to the Aarhus Convention
Responsible Bodies

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MENRP)

Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia

Development and Implementation of State Policy and Legislation
Ensuring Control/Monitoring/Safety
Ensuring Transparency

Ministry of Finance of Georgia
## Legal Framework

### Major Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law on LMOs</th>
<th><strong>Main principles</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Damage prevention</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Ensure biosafety</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Bioethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Safety precaution</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Liability</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Transparency and public participation</td>
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</tbody>
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Regulates:
- LMOs import for contained use – requires license
- LMOs transit

**2014**

**Main goals**

- Informed customer
- Freedom of choice
- State control
- Harmonization with EU acquis and other international legal regulation
- Obligations of business operators

Regulates:
- GMOs placing on the market
- GMOs import
Legal Framework
Regulations and Resolutions

Amendments to number of sub-laws on:

- Customs/Border control
- Ensuring safe use and handling of LMOs during transportation (transit/import)
- Risk assessment while issuing licenses
- License register
- Rules and special requirements for labelling, license certification and forms, regulations after register, etc.
Aarhus Convention
GMO Amendment

AI&PP on placing on the market and deliberate release

Public Participation
- Legislation development
- LMOs license register – for contained use
- Placing on the market - labeling system

Public Access
- LMOs placing on the market
- LMOs deliberate release
- Export/Re-export/Import (exception-import for contained use)

NO
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs

Public awareness, education and participation

Access to information

Access to Biosafety Clearing-House

✓ Legislation development
✓ License register
✓ Labeling on packages during transportation
✓ Information on responsible person on transported product
✓ Product information

MENRP:
✓ Provides information on legislation and licenses
✓ Makes systematization of CH information
✓ Ensures public access
Challenges

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**
  - No legislation till 2014
  - Sub-laws under development

- **GMO Amendment of the Aarhus Convention**
  - Ratification after respective legislation

- **Lack of awareness**
  - Exchange of good practices and county’s experiences is necessary
  - More information about LMOs/GMOs is needed
Opportunities

- Improved Regulation/Monitoring/Control
- Reduced adverse effects
- Informed citizens
- More opportunities for scientific research
- Experience sharing/Concerted efforts
Thank you

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