

LITHUANIA

Report on the Implementation of the 2008 Environment Council Conclusions

Strengthening of environmental assessment and of monitoring arrangements

The Law on Genetically Modified Organisms regulates the state management of GMOs in a broad sense while other domestic orders fully implement the EU-Directives. The EU-Regulations are directly applicable in Lithuanian legislation.

The Ministry of Environment is a Competent Authority for state management of GMO in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture, Lithuanian Ministry of Health and State Food and Veterinary Service are interested institutions that collaborate with The Ministry of Environment.

The Order on Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms to Human Health and Environment (No. D1-841/V-869/3D-894/B1-348) was adopted in 2002 in order to determine and evaluate any risk of the usage of GMOs and products containing GMOs to the health of human and animals and to the environment and agriculture. Moreover, leading biology related scientists were organized into consultative advisory body which was established by the order of Ministry of Environment on Genetically Modified Organisms Experts Committee (No. 198) in 2003 in the Republic of Lithuania. GMO Experts Committee analyses the report of risk assessment prepared by the notifier and makes proposals and conclusions. EFSA guidelines have been used by GMO Experts Committee.

To date there has been no field trial of GM plants and commercial cultivation of genetically modified crops in Lithuania and there are also no monitoring activities going on.

Appraisal of socio-economic benefits and risks

Lithuania submitted a report on the socio-economic implication of authorized GMOs in Lithuania to the Commission.

Better use of expertise

Lithuania participates in EFSA Scientific Network meetings for Risk Assessment of GMOs.

2006 - 2010 The Ministry of Environment funded the GMO risk assessment research project in order to establish a methodology of the risk assessment of GM plants (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill., *Cydonia oblonga* Mill., *Prunus cerasus* x *P. canescens*) on environment and human health. Researches studied the possibilities of GMO spreading in the environment due to alteration of vitality, on estimation of genetically modified organisms potential impact on genetic diversity in recipient environment evaluation of phenotypic and genotypic stability of the genetically modified organisms. The results will be published in 2012.

International Workshop „GMO Risk Assessment and Management“ was organized in 2010. The Funds for the workshop were provided by UNEP-GEF Project.

Sensitive and/or protected areas

The Order on Coexistence of Genetically Modified Crops with Conventional and Organic Farming was approved in 2010. It introduced the co-existence rules of GM crops and non-modified crops in the Republic of Lithuania.