

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

FIFTH NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON
BIOSAFETY (NR5)

General Information

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1. Country

[Belgium](#)

2. Contact person submitting the report

[CHM-NFP-BE-263117-3](#) | National Focal Points | Mr. Jens Warrie

Organizations/stakeholders who were consulted or participated in the preparation of this report

All federal and regional entities with a competency regarding biosafety

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3. Date of submission

27 Feb 2026

4. Time period covered by this report

From

01 Aug 2019

To

31 Dec 2025

6. Please use the space below to provide any further details:

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Article 2 - General provisions

Article 2 requires each Party to take the necessary and appropriate legal, administrative

and other measures to implement its obligations under the Protocol

7. Has your country introduced the necessary national measures for the implementation of the Protocol?

National measures are fully in place

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8. Which specific instruments are in place for the implementation of national biosafety measures? (select all that apply)

One or more national biosafety laws

One or more national biosafety regulations

One or more sets of biosafety guidelines

Other laws, regulations or guidelines that indirectly apply to biosafety

Please provide further information on the instruments in place:

See EU answer

EN

9. Has your country integrated biosafety in national sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, action plans, programmes, policies or legislation?

Yes

EN

10. Does your country have resources for biosafety from national budgets?

Yes

EN

Are these resources adequate:

Yes

EN

11. Does your country have qualified staff to administer functions directly related to biosafety?

Yes

EN

12. If you answered Yes to question 11, how many qualified staff members are in place whose functions are directly related to biosafety?

10 or more

EN

Is this number adequate:

Yes

EN

13. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 2 in your country:

The implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in Belgium is ensured through a set of regulatory instruments, most of which corresponding to the direct application or the transposition in Belgian law of EU legal provisions. Many of these legal instruments were also in place largely before the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol. These regulatory instruments cover in particular the contained use of GMOs, their environmental release (for R&D and for commercialization), their use as food or feed, their transboundary movements, and their coexistence with non-GM and organic agricultural products. Since competencies on GMO matters are shared between the Federal State and the three Regions, a cooperation agreement between all the competent entities has been established since 1997 to manage in an harmonized way the administrative and scientific implementation of the Belgian GMO regulatory framework. As a result, decisions by different administrative bodies representing different institutional levels are based on a single science-based biosafety advisory system, composed of the Belgian Biosafety Advisory Council (BAC) and the Service Biosafety and Biotechnology (SBB) of Sciensano (formerly Scientific Institute of Public Health). In this system, all regulatory-related aspects of the uses of GMOs and pathogens are assessed altogether in a coordinated way, independently of the specific regulation(s) involved. Competent Authorities (supported by permanent and temporary experienced staff) have been appointed for all regulatory matters related to the implementation (including control) of the Cartagena Protocol. This implementation is also supported by guidelines developed at Belgian or EU level. National focal points for the Protocol and for the BCH have also been designated. For more information about the Belgian biosafety framework, please refer to the BCH.

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Article 5 - Pharmaceuticals

14. Does your country regulate the transboundary movement, handling or use of living modified organisms (LMOs) which are pharmaceuticals for humans?

Yes

EN

15. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 5 in your country:

We refer to the 4th national report of Belgium as no changes have been observed since

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Article 6 - Transit and contained use

16. Does your country regulate the transit of LMOs?

Yes

EN

17. Does your country regulate the contained use of LMOs?

Yes

EN

18. Has your country taken a decision concerning the import of LMOs for contained use?

No

EN

19. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 6 in your country:

The contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs) or organisms (GMOs) and/or pathogens is regulated in Belgium at the regional level and is based on the implementation of European Directive 2009/41/EC. These Community measures ask for Member States to regulate the contained use of GMMs in order to minimise their potential adverse effects on human health and the environment. Although the EU regulatory framework only covers genetically modified microorganisms, the scope of the Belgian regional legislations has been extended to genetically modified organisms and pathogenic organisms for humans, animals and plants. The three Regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-Capital) have implemented the above-mentioned EU legislation as part of their Environmental laws for classified installations. In such a general context, biosafety is just one of the safety issues covered by the environmental permit. All activities in laboratories, animal houses, greenhouses, hospital rooms and large-scale production facilities involving genetically modified and/or pathogenic organisms are subject to a preliminary written authorisation from the relevant regional competent authorities on the basis of a specific notification and decision procedure. During the procedure, the risk assessment is submitted for advice to the Service Biosafety and Biotechnology (SBB) of Sciensano, who acts as technical expert for the Regions. The full text of the three regional legislation is available from the BCH. See EU' s

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report for transit.

Articles 7 to 10: Advance informed agreement (AIA) and intentional introduction of LMOs into the environment

20. Has your country established legal requirements for exporters under its jurisdiction to notify in writing the competent national authority of the Party of import prior to the intentional transboundary movement of an LMO that falls within the scope of the AIA procedure?

Yes

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21. Has your country established legal requirements for the accuracy of information contained in the notification provided by exporters under its jurisdiction?

Yes

EN

22. In the current reporting period, has your country received a notification regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

No

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23. If you answered Yes to question 22, did the notification(s) contain complete information (at a minimum the information specified in Annex I to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)?

24. If you answered Yes to question 22, has your country acknowledged receipt of the notification(s) to the notifier within ninety days of receipt?

25. If you answered Yes to question 22, has your country informed the following of its decision(s):

a. The notifier?

b. The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)?

26. In the current reporting period, has your country taken a decision in response to the notification(s)

regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

No

EN

Please specify how many

EN

27. If you answered Yes to question 26, what percentage of your country's decisions fall into the following categories?

Were the reasons for the conditions provided?

Were the reasons for the prohibition provided?

28. If you answered Yes to question 26, how many LMOs has your country approved for import for intentional introduction into the environment?

29. If you answered under question 28 that LMOs were approved, have these LMOs actually been imported into your country?

30. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Articles 7 to 10 in your country, including measures in case of lack of scientific certainty on potential adverse effects of LMOs for intentional introduction to the environment:

We refer to the EU report for further details

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Article 11 - Procedure for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMOs-FFP)

31. Does your country have law(s), regulation(s) or administrative measures for decision-making regarding domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes

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32. Has your country established legal requirements for the accuracy of information to be provided by the applicant regarding the domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes

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33. In the current reporting period, how many decisions has your country taken regarding domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

10 or more

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34. Does your country have law(s), regulation(s) or administrative measures for decision-making regarding the import of LMOs for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes

EN

35. In the current reporting period, how many decisions has your country taken regarding the import of LMOs for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

10 or more

EN

36. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 11 in your country, including measures in case of lack of scientific certainty on potential adverse effects of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing:

We refer to the EU answer.

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Article 12 - Review of decisions

37. Has your country established a mechanism for the review and change of a decision regarding an intentional transboundary movement of LMOs?

Yes

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38. In the current reporting period, has your country reviewed and/or changed a decision regarding an intentional transboundary movement of an LMO?

No

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39. If you answered *Yes* to question 38, how many decisions were reviewed and/or changed?

40. If you answered *Yes* to question 38, were any of the reviews triggered by a request from the Party of export or the notifier?

41. If you answered *Yes* to question 40, did your country provide a response within ninety days setting out the reasons for the decision?

42. If you answered *Yes* to question 38, were any of the reviews initiated by your country as the Party of import?

43. If you answered *Yes* to question 42, did your country, within thirty days, set out the reasons for the decision and inform:

a. The notifier?

b. The BCH?

44. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 12 in your country:

We refer to the EU report

EN

Article 13 - Simplified procedure

45. Has your country established a mechanism for the application of the simplified procedure regarding an intentional transboundary movement of LMOs?

No

EN

46. In the current reporting period, has your country applied the simplified procedure?

No

EN

47. If you answered *Yes* to question 46, for how many LMOs has your country applied the simplified procedure?

48. If you answered *Yes* to question 46, has your country informed the Parties through the BCH of the cases where the simplified procedure was applied?

49. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 13 in your country:

We refer to the EU answer

EN

Article 14 - Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

50. How many bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements relevant to biosafety has your country established with other Parties/non-Parties?

None

EN

51. If you answered under question 50 that *agreements or arrangements were established*, please provide a brief description of their scope and objective:

EN

52. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 14 in your country:

BE, part of the EU, has not entered into any bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements as per Article 14(1).

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Articles 15 & 16 - Risk assessment and risk management

53. Does the domestic regulatory framework of your country require risk assessments of LMOs to be conducted?

Yes

EN

To which LMOs does this requirement apply (select all that apply):

For imports of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment
For imports of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing
For decisions regarding domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movements for direct use as food or feed, or for processing
For imports of LMOs for contained use

54. Has your country established a mechanism to conduct risk assessments prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs?

Yes

EN

Conducting risk assessment or risk management

55. In the current reporting period, has your country conducted any kind of risk assessment of LMOs, including for contained use, field trials, commercial purposes, direct use as food, feed, or for processing?

Yes

EN

56. If you answered Yes to question 55, how many risk assessments were conducted?

50 to 99

EN

57. If you answered Yes to question 55, please indicate the scope of the risk assessments (select all that apply):

LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment for experimental testing or field trials
LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment for commercial purposes
LMOs for direct use as food
LMOs for direct use as feed

58. If you answered Yes to question 55, were risk assessments conducted for all decisions taken on LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment or on domestic use of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes, always

EN

59. If you answered *Yes* to question 55, have you considered:

a. other available scientific evidence, as referred to in Article 15 of the Protocol?

In some cases

EN

b. relevant traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities?

No

EN

60. If you answered *Yes* or *In some cases* to question 59(b), was this information considered in a scientifically sound manner?

61. Has your country established appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate and manage risks identified in the risk assessment of LMOs?

Yes

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62. Has your country taken appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs including such measures as requiring a risk assessment to be carried out prior to the first release of a LMO?

Yes

EN

63. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any LMO, whether imported or locally developed, undergoes an appropriate period of observation that is commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use?

Yes

EN

64. Has your country established a mechanism for monitoring potential effects of LMOs released into the environment?

Yes

EN

65. Does your country have measures to identify LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

Yes

EN

66. Has your country had access to or used any resource materials, including guidance documents, for the purpose of conducting risk assessment or risk management, or for evaluating risk assessment reports submitted by notifiers?

a. Risk assessment:

Yes

EN

b. Risk management:

Yes

EN

67. If you answered Yes to question 66(a) or (b), is your country using the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs” (developed by the Online Forum and the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management) for conducting risk assessment or risk management, or for evaluating risk assessment reports submitted by notifiers?

No

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68. Does your country have specific needs for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of LMOs?

No

EN

Capacity-building in risk assessment or risk management

69. Does your country have the capacity to detect, identify, assess the risk of and/or monitor LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human health?

a. Detect:

Yes

EN

b. Identify:

Yes

EN

c. Assess the risk:

Yes

EN

d. Monitor:

Yes

EN

70. In the current reporting period, how many people in your country have been trained in risk assessment, risk management and monitoring of LMOs?

a. Risk assessment:

1 to 9

EN

Is this number adequate:

Yes

EN

b. Risk management:

1 to 9

EN

Is this number adequate:

Yes

EN

c. Monitoring:

1 to 9

EN

Is this number adequate:

Yes

EN

71. Is your country using training material and/or technical guidance for training in risk assessment and risk management of LMOs?

Yes

EN

Which materials/guidance are being used

Other materials/guidance: (All administrative and scientific guidance from EFSA
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/applications/gmo>)

72. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Articles 15 and 16 in your country:

Belgium has implemented a comprehensive system for risk assessment dealing with all uses of LMOs. Accordingly, all regulatory-related aspects of the uses of LMOs are assessed altogether in a coordinated way, independently of the specific concerned regulation(s). The main legal basis is the "Cooperation Agreement between the Federal State and the Regions on the administrative and scientific coordination concerning Biosafety" (1997). This cooperation agreement establishes a common scientific evaluation system for the Federal State and the Regions, consisting in the Biosafety Advisory Council (BAC) and the Service for Biosafety and Biotechnology (SBB) of Sciensano. The BAC advises the authorities for all regulatory dossiers related to the placing on the market of products consisting of or containing GMOs, for applications for field trials of transgenic plants, and for applications relating to clinical trials in which a release of GMO into the environment is possible. The Council can be consulted by the Regions for contained use activities involving

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GMOs. The BAC is composed of academic and administrative representatives appointed by the Regional and Federal competent authorities. The SBB is in charge of the secretariat of the Biosafety Council. It is composed of an administrative secretariat and a multidisciplinary group of scientists. The SBB advises the regional authorities in relation to the use of pathogens and GMOs under contained conditions. It provides permanent scientific support to the BAC and to the competent Federal and Regional authorities in the field of risk assessment of LMOs, including in official fora at EU (Council, Commission, EFSA, EMA) and international (OECD, UN) level. In the framework of the scientific evaluation of regulatory dossiers and other biosafety-related matters, the BAC and the SBB frequently call for the scientific support of external experts coming from Belgian (and sometimes foreign) academic institutions. For this purpose, a list of experts has been compiled in a database. Experts are consulted on a case by case basis, depending of the specific expertise needed in the frame of the evaluation of a dossier. The expertise is most of the cases done according to a written procedure. The experts are entitled to receive a financial allowance for their scientific work. This cooperation with scientific experts is very important to deliver scientifically sound advices to the competent authorities. It also makes it possible to involve Belgium's academic community in biosafety matters. Furthermore, many scientists see an increase in the value of their research work due to their contributions to the BAC and SBB expertise.

Article 17 - Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

In accordance with the operational definition adopted in decision CP-VIII/16, “‘Unintentional transboundary movement’ is a transboundary movement of a living modified organism that has inadvertently crossed the national borders of a Party where the living modified organism was released, and the requirements of Article 17 of the Protocol apply to such transboundary movements only if the living modified organism involved is likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, in the affected or potentially affected States.”

73. Has your country established measures to notify affected or potentially affected States, the Biosafety Clearing-House and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations in case of a release under its jurisdiction that leads, or may lead, to an unintentional transboundary movement?

Yes

EN

74. In the current reporting period, how many releases of LMOs occurred under your country's jurisdiction that led, or may have led, to an unintentional transboundary movement?

None

EN

75. If you answered *under question 74* that a *release occurred*, has your country notified affected or potentially affected States, the Biosafety Clearing-House and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations?

76. In the current reporting period, how many times has your country become aware of an unintentional transboundary movement into its territory?

None

EN

77. Does your country have the capacity to take appropriate measures in response to unintentional transboundary movements?

Yes

EN

78. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 17 in your country:

Article 14 of EU Regulation 1946/2003 provides for measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movement of GMOs and appropriate responses, including emergency measures. Belgium has a "Crisis cell" in its Federal public Service Health, Food Chain Safety & Environment, where unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs likely to have significant adverse effects on biological biodiversity, including human health, should be communicated.

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Article 18 - Handling, transport, packaging and identification

79. Has your country taken measures to require that LMOs that are subject to transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into account relevant international rules and standards?

Yes

EN

80. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP, *in cases where the identity of the LMOs is not known*, clearly identifies that they *may contain LMOs* and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information?

Yes

EN

81. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP, *in cases where the identity of the LMOs is known*, clearly identifies that they *contain LMOs* and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information?

Yes

EN

82. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question(s) 79, 80 and/or 81, what type of documentation accompanying LMOs does your country require?

Documentation specific to LMOs

EN

83. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs *that are destined for contained use* clearly identifies them as *LMOs*, and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, as well as the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the LMO are consigned?

Yes

EN

84. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question 83, what type of documentation does your country require for the identification of LMOs that are destined for contained use?

As part of other documentation (not specific to LMOs)

EN

85. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs *that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import* clearly identifies them as *living modified organisms*; specifies the identity and relevant traits and/or characteristics, any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the importer and exporter; and contains a declaration that the movement is in conformity with the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol applicable to the exporter?

Yes

EN

86. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question 85, what type of documentation does your country require for the identification of LMOs that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment?

Documentation specific to LMOs

EN

87. Does your country have the capacity to enforce the requirements of identification and documentation of LMOs?

Yes

EN

88. In the current reporting period, how many customs officers in your country have received training in the identification of LMOs?

None

EN

Is this number adequate:

89. Has your country established procedures for the sampling and detection of LMOs?

Yes

EN

90. Does your country have access to and use resource materials and detection methods to detect and identify LMOs?

a. *access to* resource materials and detection methods to detect and identify LMOs?

Yes

EN

b. *use of* resource materials and detection methods to detect and identify LMOs?

Yes

EN

91. Does your country have access to and use tools to detect and identify LMOs?

a. *access to* tools?

Yes

EN

b. *use of* tools?

Yes

EN

92. Does your country have access to and use certified reference materials necessary to detect and identify LMOs?

a. *access to* certified reference materials?

Yes

EN

b. *use of* certified reference materials?

Yes

EN

93. How many laboratory personnel in your country have received training in detection of LMOs?

1 to 9

EN

Is this number adequate:

Yes

EN

94. Does your country have reliable access to technical infrastructures, such as laboratories for the detection and identification of LMOs?

a. technical infrastructure for *detection* of LMOs?

Yes

EN

b. technical infrastructure for *identification* of LMOs

Yes

EN

95. How many laboratories in your country are certified for LMO detection?

1 to 4

EN

96. If you answered under question 95 that *certified laboratories exist in your country*, how many of them are currently operating in the field of the detection of LMOs?

1 to 4

EN

97. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 18 in your country:

With regards to GMO detection and identification, Belgium is part of the European Network of GMO Laboratories (ENGL). The main missions of the ENGL are the development, harmonisation and standardisation of sampling, detection, identification and quantification methods for GMOs or GMO-derived products from a wide variety of matrices, covering seeds, cereals, foodstuffs, animal feed and environmental samples. The Belgian component of the ENGL, namely the National Reference Laboratory for Genetically Modified Organisms (NRL-GMO), was officially set up in 2006. It is made up of Sciensano (the federal laboratory for the GMO detection), the ILVO (Flemish Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research) and the CRA-W (Walloon Agricultural Research Centre). The NRL-GMO is coordinated by Sciensano. It works to support the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) within the context of implementing Regulation (EC) 1830/2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of GMOs and the traceability of food and feed products produced from GMOs. In particular, it has the task of promoting the application and development of new GMO detection, identification and quantification methods in food matrices. The European consortium ENGL, including the Belgian NRL-GMO, works to support the European Union Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed (EURL-GMFF, formerly the Community Reference Laboratory), which was established in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) 1829/2003 on GM Food and Feed. The main task of the EURL-GMFF is the scientific assessment and validation of detection methods supplied by notifiers within the framework of marketing authorisation applications for GMO food or feed

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Article 19 - Competent national authorities and national focal points

98. In case your country has designated more than one competent national authority, has your country established a mechanism for the coordination of their actions prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs?

Yes

EN

99. Has your country established adequate institutional capacity to enable the competent national authority(ies) to perform the administrative functions required by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

Yes

EN

100. Has your country undertaken initiatives to strengthen collaboration among national focal points, competent national authority(ies) and other institutions on biosafety-related matters?

Yes

EN

Additional Information

Georgia study visit, EU coordinations,...

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101. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 19 in your country:

Permanent staff members have been designated respectively as: • National focal Point of the Protocol • National focal point of the BCH • Federal Competent Authority for the placing on the market and import of GMOs intended for deliberate release into the environment. • Federal Competent Authority for the import of GMOs directly intended for food and feed. • Federal Competent Authority for the export of GMOs Are also designated as permanent staff: • National Secretariat of the Biosafety Advisory Council (the members of this last organ can be renewed every 4 years) • Regional Competent Authorities for the contained use of GMOs (responsible for the follow-up of administrative procedures, for authorisations and for inspections) • Regional Competent Authorities for the implementation of agriculture coexistence rules.

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Article 20 - Information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH):

102. Please provide an overview of the status of the mandatory information provided by your country to the BCH by specifying for each category of information whether it is available and whether it has been submitted to the BCH:

a. Existing legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20, paragraph 3(a))

Information available and in the BCH

EN

b. Legislation, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 5)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

c. Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Article 14, paragraph 2, and Article 20, paragraph 3 (b))

Information not available

EN

d. Contact details for competent national authorities (Article 19, paragraphs 2 and 3), national focal points (Article 19, paragraphs 1 and 3), and emergency contacts (Article 17, paragraph 3(e))

Information available and in the BCH

EN

e. Decisions regarding transit of LMOs (Article 6, paragraph 1)

Information not available

EN

f. Decisions regarding import of LMOs for contained use (Article 6, paragraph 2)

Information not available

EN

g. Notifications regarding the release under your country's jurisdiction that leads, or may lead, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a LMO that is likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17, paragraph 1)

Information not available

EN

h. Information concerning cases of illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25, paragraph 3)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

i. Decisions regarding the importation of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment (Article 10, paragraph 3)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

j. Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14, paragraph 4)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

k. Decisions regarding the domestic use of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 1)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

l. Decisions regarding the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing that are taken under domestic regulatory frameworks (Article 11, paragraph 4) or in accordance with Annex III to the Protocol (Article 11, paragraph 6)

Information available and in the BCH

EN

m. Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 6)

Information not available

EN

n. Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12, paragraph 1)

Information not available

EN

o. Cases where intentional transboundary movement may take place at the same time as the movement is notified to your country (Article 13, paragraph 1(a))

Information not available

EN

p. LMOs exempted from the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 13, paragraph 1(b))

Information not available

EN

q. Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information regarding products thereof (Article 20, paragraph 3(c))

Information available and in the BCH

EN

103. Please provide a brief explanation if you answered that the information is available *but not in the BCH* or *only partially available in the BCH* to any item under question 102:

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104. Has your country established a mechanism for the coordination among the BCH national focal point, the Cartagena Protocol national focal point, and the competent national authority(ies) for making information available to the BCH?

Yes

EN

105. In the current reporting period, has your country used the information available in the BCH in its decision-making processes on LMOs?

Yes, in some cases

EN

106. In the current reporting period, has your country experienced difficulties accessing or using the BCH?

No

EN

107. Does your country have a national biosafety clearing-house?

Yes

EN

Additional Information

<https://www.biosafetyprotocol.be/>

EN

108. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 20 in your country:

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Article 21 - Confidential information

109. Has your country established procedures to protect confidential information received under the Protocol?

Yes

EN

110. Does your country allow the notifier to identify information that is to be treated as confidential?

Yes, always

EN

111. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 21 in your country:

See EU report

EN

Article 22 - Capacity-building

112. Does your country have predictable and reliable funding for its capacity-building needs for the effective implementation of the Protocol?

No

EN

113. Has your country received external support for the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

No

EN

114. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question 113, how was this support made available?

115. Has your country provided support to other Parties in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

Yes

EN

Additional Information

Georgian study visit to Belgium in 2023

EN

116. If you answered *Yes* to question 115, how was this support made available?

Bilateral channels

117. In the current reporting period, has your country used its GEF STAR allocation for biosafety activities?

No

EN

118. In the current reporting period, has your country undertaken activities for the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

Yes

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119. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question 118, in which of the following areas were these activities undertaken (select all that apply)?

Institutional capacity and human resources
Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise
Identification of LMOs, including their detection

120. If you answered *Yes* or *Yes, to some extent* to question 118, did your country use capacity-building materials, including online resources, for the development and/or strengthening of capacity-building?

No

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121. In the current reporting period, has your country carried out a capacity-building needs assessment?

No

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122. Does your country still have capacity-building needs?

No

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123. If you answered Yes to question 122, which of the following areas still need capacity-building (select all that apply)?

124. If you answered Yes to question 122, has your country prioritized its capacity-building needs?

125. Does your country have in place a functional national mechanism for coordinating biosafety capacity-building initiatives?

Yes

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126. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 22 in your country, including further details about your experience in accessing GEF funds:

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EN

Article 23 - Public awareness and participation

127. Is biosafety public awareness, education and/or participation addressed in legislation or policy in your country?

Yes

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128. Has your country established a mechanism to ensure public access to information on LMOs?

Yes

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Additional Information

Public consultations are undertaken in line with the EU regulation (specifically

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Directive 2001/18) and Aarhus Agreement via the FPS Health website for national procedures and the EFSA website for EU procedures.

129. Has your country established a mechanism to facilitate and promote public participation, including consultation, in the decision-making process regarding LMOs?

Yes

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130. Has your country informed the public about existing modalities for public participation in the decision-making process regarding LMOs?

Yes

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131. In the current reporting period, how many times has your country consulted the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs?

5 or more

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132. In the current reporting period, has your country made the results of decisions regarding LMOs available to the public?

Yes

EN

133. Has your country informed the public about the means to access the Biosafety Clearing-House?

Yes

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134. Has biosafety been addressed or integrated in educational and training programmes in your country?

Yes

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135. Does your country have in place a national communication strategy on biosafety?

Yes

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Additional Information

Information shared via www.biosafety.be - all scientific advices are published at

EN

www.bio-council.be.

136. Does your country have any awareness and outreach programmes on biosafety?

No

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137. Does your country currently have a national biosafety website?

Yes

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Additional Information

<https://www.biosafety.be/>

EN

138. In the current reporting period, has your country accessed resource materials for facilitating and promoting public awareness, education and participation in biosafety?

No

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139. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 23 in your country:

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Article 24 - Non-Parties

140. Has your country entered into any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreement(s) with non-Parties regarding transboundary movements of LMOs?

No

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141. In the current reporting period, has your country imported LMOs from a non-Party?

Yes

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142. In the current reporting period, has your country exported LMOs to a non-Party?

Yes

EN

143. If you answered Yes to question 141 and/or 142, were the transboundary movements of LMOs consistent with the objective of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

Yes, always

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144. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 24 in your country:

In the period 2022-2025, there were two notifications by a company exporting a LMO to the United States.

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Article 25 - Illegal transboundary movements

In accordance with the operational definition adopted in decision CP-VIII/16, “‘Illegal transboundary movement’ is a transboundary movement of living modified organisms carried out in contravention of the domestic measures to implement the Protocol that have been adopted by the Party concerned”

145. Has your country adopted domestic measures aimed at preventing and/or penalizing transboundary movements of LMOs carried out in contravention of its domestic measures to implement the Cartagena Protocol?

Yes

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146. In the current reporting period, how many cases of illegal transboundary movements of LMOs has your country become aware of?

10 or more

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147. If you indicated under question 146 that your country became aware of *cases of illegal transboundary movements*, has the origin of the LMO(s) been established?

Yes

EN

148. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 25 in your country:

Illegal transboundary movements were observed both from and to Belgium. From Belgium, there were two cases of contaminated bird feed transported to Switzerland. This was notified by the Swiss authorities and followed up by the competent authority in Belgium. This information is available as well in the BCH.

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Article 26 - Socio-economic considerations

149. Does your country have any specific approaches or requirements that facilitate how socioeconomic considerations should be taken into account in LMO decision-making?

Yes

EN

150. Has your country used resource materials for taking socioeconomic considerations into account?

No

EN

151. In the current reporting period, have socioeconomic considerations arising from the impact of LMOs been taken into account in decision-making?

In some cases only

EN

152. Please use the space below to provide further details on the implementation of Article 26 in your country:

EN

Article 28 - Financial mechanism and resources

153. In the current reporting period, how much funding (in the equivalent of US dollars) has your country mobilized to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol beyond the regular national budgetary allocation?

None

EN

Article 33 - Monitoring and reporting

Article 33 requires Parties to monitor the implementation of its obligations under the Cartagena Protocol and to report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on measures taken to implement the Protocol.

154. Does your country have in place a system to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol?

Yes

EN

Cooperation

Goal B.4 of the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol addresses cooperation and coordination on biosafety issues at the national, regional and international levels. Questions related to this goal are presented below, including questions related to cooperation under different provisions of the Protocol.

155. In the current period, has your country cooperated with other Parties in:

a. exchange of scientific, technical and institutional knowledge;

Yes

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b. identifying LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (Article 16(5)).

Yes

EN

c. research and information exchange on any socioeconomics impacts of LMOs? (Article 26(2))

Yes

EN

Does this include research and information exchange on socioeconomic impacts of LMOs on indigenous peoples and local communities?

No

EN

d. public awareness, education and participation? (Article 23(1)(a))

No

EN

e. strengthening capacities for the implementation of the Protocol?

Yes

EN

156. In the current reporting period, has your country engaged in bilateral, regional or multilateral

activities for the implementation of the Protocol?

Yes

EN

157. Does your country have mechanisms in place for involving indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders from different sectors in the implementation of the Protocol?

a. mechanisms for involving *indigenous peoples and local communities*

No

EN

b. mechanisms for involving *relevant stakeholders from different sectors*

Yes

EN

158. Please use the space below to provide further details on biosafety cooperation in your country:

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Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

Parties to the Cartagena Protocol that are not yet Party to the Supplementary Protocol are also invited to respond to the questions below

159. Is your country a Party to the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress?

Yes

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Is there any national process in place towards becoming a Party to the Supplementary Protocol?

160. Has your country introduced the necessary measures for the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol?

National measures are fully in place

EN

161. Which instruments are in place for the implementation of the Supplementary Protocol (select all

that apply)?

One or more national laws

Please provide further information on the instruments in place:

See Q174

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162. Does your country have administrative or legal instruments that require response measures to be taken:

a. In case of damage resulting from LMOs?

Yes

EN

b. In case there is sufficient likelihood that damage will result if response measures are not taken?

Yes

EN

163. If you answered Yes to question 162a, do these instruments impose requirements on an operator (select all that apply)?

Yes, the operator must inform the competent authority of the damage

Yes, the operator must evaluate the damage

Yes, the operator must take response measures

164. If you answered Yes to question 162a, do these instruments require the operator to take response measures to avoid damage?

Yes

EN

165. If you answered Yes to question 162a or 162b, do these instruments provide for a definition of "operator"?

Yes

EN

166. If you answered Yes to question 165, which of the following could be an 'operator' (select all that apply)?

Permit holder
Person who placed the LMO on the market
Developer
Producer
Notifier
Exporter
Importer
Carrier
Supplier

167. Has a competent authority been identified for carrying out the functions set out in the Supplementary Protocol?

Yes

EN

Additional Information

FPS Health in cooperation with the regions

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168. If you answered Yes to question 167, what measures may the competent authority take (select all that apply)?

Identify the operator that caused the damage
Evaluate the damage
Determine response measures to be taken by operator
Implement response measures
Recover costs and expenses of the evaluation of the damage and the implementation of any response measures from the operator

169. Does your country have measures in place to provide for financial security for damage resulting from LMOs?

Yes

EN

170. If you answered Yes to question 169, what type of financial security measures are in place (select all that apply)?

Requirement to provide evidence of a secure source of funding
Mandatory insurance
Government schemes, including funds

171. Does your country have rules and procedures on civil liability that address damage resulting from LMOs, or has such damage been recognized in court rulings (select all that apply)?

Yes, in a civil liability instrument

172. Have there been any occurrences of damage resulting from LMOs in your country?

No

EN

173. If you answered Yes to question 172, have response measures been taken?

174. Please use the space below to provide further details on any activities undertaken in your country towards the implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress:

Walloon Region: - 22 novembre 2007 Décret modifiant le Livre Ier du Code de l'Environnement en ce qui concerne la prévention et la réparation des dommages environnementaux - 3 juin 2016. — Décret modifiant le Code de l'Environnement, le Code de l'Eau et divers décrets en matière de déchets et de permis d'environnement Flanders Region: Decreet van 5 april 1995 houdende algemene bepalingen inzake milieubeleid, titel XV Milieuschade. Brussels Capital Region - 25 MARS 1999. - Code de l'inspection, la prévention, la constatation et la répression des infractions en matière d'environnement et de la responsabilité environnementale, (art. 4 ; 20 ; 21, § 1, 6 ; 24-30 ; 57) - 19 MARS 2009. - Arrêté du Gouvernement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale précisant certaines dispositions de l'ordonnance du 13 novembre 2008 relative à la responsabilité environnementale en ce qui concerne la prévention et la réparation des dommages environnementaux. Federal level : - Koninklijk besluit betreffende de preventie en het herstel van milieuschade bij het in de handel brengen van genetisch gemodificeerde organismen of van producten die er bevatten - 8 NOVEMBER 2007. - Koninklijk besluit betreffende de preventie en het herstel van milieuschade tengevolge van het vervoer over de weg, per spoor, over de binnenwateren of in de lucht van : uitheemse plantensoorten evenals van uitheemse diersoorten en hun krengen, naar aanleiding van de in-, de uit- en de doorvoer ervan; alsook van afvalstoffen bij hun doorvoer

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Other information

175. Please use this field to provide any other information on issues related to national implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Supplementary Protocol, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

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Comments on reporting format

176. Please use this field to provide any information on difficulties that you have encountered in filling in this report, and suggestions for its improvement:

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Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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