

***Ministry of Environment  
of the Slovak Republic***



***STATE OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT REPORT  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
2010***



***Slovak Environmental Agency***

## • GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

### Key questions and key findings

#### ◆ Key questions

- Is there an impending risk for Slovakia associated with the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms?

#### ◆ Key findings

- Slovakia adopted a system of legal protection in the area of using genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms, that is fully compatible with the EC policies. The use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms is subject to a stringent process of assessment and approval in order to minimize the risk.

### Using of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms

The area of using genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms (GMO) within the Slovak legal code is addressed by the Act No. 151/2002 Coll. on the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms as amended by the Act No. 587/2004 Coll., and the MoE SR Regulation 399/2005 executing this Act as amended by Regulation 312/2008 Coll..

The law makes it possible to use genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in three ways:

- in enclosed areas (devices),
- intentional release, including
  - a) introduction to the environment,
  - b) introduction to the market.

#### ◆ Using of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in vitro

Plans the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in enclosed areas (laboratories, greenhouses, cultivating rooms, and other enclosed facilities) is divided into four at risk categories (RC), while the RC 1 represents no or negligible risk, RC 2 means small risk, RC 3 means medium risk, and RC 4 means significant risk.

Based on the received applications, the Slovak Ministry of Environment in 2010 issued permission to five users to use, for the first time, closed facilities and had no objections to the nineteen reports it received that dealt with the start of activities in closed facilities. Of the number of 21 users, two carried out the RT 2 activities.

As to date, the Ministry has not received applications for permission to start the RT3 and 4 activities.

**◆ Intentional release**

In 2010, the Slovak Ministry of Environment issued 3 permissions for testing cultivation of genetically modified corn, and 1 permission for testing cultivation of genetically modified sugar cane.

**◆ Biological safety commission**

Commission for the biological safety (commission) is the professional consulting body to the Ministry of Environment of the SR in the area of biological safety. Commission administered by the department of biological safety of the Slovak Ministry of Environment of the SR has 11 permanent members and 15 experts who come from a wide spectrum of professionals in the area of science or other sectors, together with state officers appointed for the individual involved resorts, and representatives of the public, including users and citizens.

The committee met 20 times in 2010. The commission commented on the reports adopted by the EU, proposals to issue licenses for the first use of closed facilities, and on the notification reports on launching operations in closed facilities.