

• GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Key questions and key findings

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

- 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

Use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms (GMO) in Slovakia falls under the following provisions:

- Act 151/2002 Coll. on the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms as amended that was revised in 2012 by Act 448/2012 which amends and supplements Act 151/2002 Coll. on the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms as amended and on supplementation to Act 24/2006 Col. on environmental impact assessment and on change and supplementation to certain laws as amended.
- MoE SR Resolution 399/2005 Coll., and MoE SR Decree 312/2008 Coll., which executes Act 151/2002 Coll., on the use of genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms as amended.

The law makes it possible to use genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms in the following 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.

On the basis of received applications and notifications, Ministry of Environment issued a permit to 27 confined areas in 2012 for their first use. The Ministry did not have any objections as to the beginning of activities classified in RT 1 in 101 confined areas, and those classified under RT 2 in 15 confined areas.

In 2012, the Ministry did not receive applications for permission to start the RT3 and 4 activities.

◆ **Intentional release**

Intentional release is a purposeful introduction of GMO or GMO combination into the environment (experiments) without the use of protective measures, pursuant to part B of the European Parliament and of the Council Directive 2001/18/EC or making them available to third parties as marketed products according to part C of this Directive.

In 2012, the Slovak Ministry of Environment issued a permit for growing genetically modified corn types - MON 89034 × NK603 and NK603 × MON 810.

◆ **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 14 permanent members and 16 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 25 times in 2012. It responded to the proposals for issuing permits for the first use of confined areas, to the notices on activities started in confined areas, and to the introduction of generically modified crop into the environment.