*16 June 2017*

**CBD Notification 2017-025 on Submission of information on Synthetic Biology**

**AUSTRIA**

Dec. XIII/17 encourages Parties and other governments […]

(a)          To conduct research on the benefits and adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology on biodiversity, with a view to filling knowledge gaps and identifying how those effects relate to the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols;

(b)          To promote and enable public and multi-stakeholder dialogues and awareness-raising activities on the potential benefits and potential adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology on biodiversity, involving all relevant stakeholders and with the full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities; and

(c)           To cooperate in the development of guidance and capacity-building activities with a view to assessing the potential benefits and potential adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology and, if necessary, updating and adapting current methodologies for risk assessment of living modified organisms to organisms resulting from synthetic biology, as appropriate.

Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to submit to the Executive Secretary information and supporting documentation on:

1. Research, cooperation and activities noted in the sub-paragraphs (a) through (c) above;

*AT Comment: Launch of a risk dialogue of Austrian stakeholders on synthetic biology, in particular new (breeding) techniques*

1. Evidence of benefits and adverse effects of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention;

*AT Comment: No information available.*

1. Experiences in conducting risk assessments of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology, including any challenges encountered, lessons learned and implications for risk assessment frameworks;

*AT Comment: Study Environment Agency Austria: New Plant Breeding Techniques and Risks Associated with their application.*

*See* [*http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/aktuell/publikationen/publikationssuche/publikationsdetail/?pub\_id=2054*](http://www.umweltbundesamt.at/aktuell/publikationen/publikationssuche/publikationsdetail/?pub_id=2054)

1. Examples of risk management and other measures that have been put in place to avoid or minimize the potential adverse effects of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology, including experiences of safe use and best practices for the safe handling of organisms developed through synthetic biology;

*AT Comment: No information available.*

1. Regulations, policies and guidelines in place or under development which are directly relevant to synthetic biology; and

*AT Comment: No information available.*

(f)           Knowledge, experience and perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of living in harmony with nature for comparison and better understanding of the potential benefits and adverse effects of synthetic biology.

*AT Comment: No information available.*

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