



**МІНІСТЭРСТВА
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

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**THE MINISTRY
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

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24.07.2014 № 10-9/39-1110

На № _____ ад _____

Ms. Cristiana Pasca Palmer
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Subject: Information as per Decision VIII / 12 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP)

Dear Ms. Cristiana Pasca Palmer,

The Ministry of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus has the honor to present to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity information requested in accordance with the Decision VIII / 12 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP).

Please, accept, Ms. Pasca Palmer, the assurance of my highest consideration.
Enclosure.: 3 pages in one copy.

Deputy Minister

S.S. Khrushchev

Annex
 FORM TO SUBMIT INFORMATION DECLARED IN DECISION VIII/12
 ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Country profile

Country name:	the Republic of Belarus
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B. Please specify your country's needs and priorities for further Guidance on specific issues related to risk assessments of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

	Needs and priorities for further Guidance on the risk assessment of LMOs	Notes
1	Guidance on the risk assessment of LMO fish and aquatic ecosystems' LMOs	An analysis of the scientific biosafety literature and biosafety databases shows that LMO fish as well as mollusks and arthropods – a new and rapidly developing direction. These organisms are at different stages of trials or they have been approved for release into the environment and to the market (Atlantic salmon). Risk assessment of rapidly multiplying organisms being released into aquatic ecosystems or those that can accidentally get into aquatic ecosystems may differ significantly from the previously proposed in the Guidance.
2	Guidance on the risk assessment of LMOs developed on the basis of synthetic biology	Continuous monitoring of scientific literature and relevant databases on LMOs derived using synthetic biology

		methods and fundamentally different from the previously developed LMOs should be carried out.
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C. Please suggest possible criteria that can facilitate the selection of subjects to develop further guidance on specific issues of LMO risk assessment, including the technical justification for each of the proposed criteria

	Subject selection criteria	Notes and technical justification
1	Relevancy	The new LMO is fundamentally different in its properties from the previously developed ones and it cannot be assessed using the Roadmap or particular Guidelines to it.

D. Please share your opinion about the existing shortcomings in the existing guidelines' materials

	Existing shortcomings	Opinion
1	Section "Monitoring"	The Roadmap and particular Guidelines for individual LMOs, whose risk assessment may differ from the general principles applied to LMOs, highlight all important points that the LMO risk assessor should take into account, describe the entire risk assessment process in detail, include many examples that make it easier for the authorities involved in risk assessment to understand the procedure. We believe that the Guidance fully complies with all the fundamental principles of the Cartagena Protocol, takes into account the precautionary principle, as well as the principle of scientific validity and transparency in risk assessment. At the same time, we believe that it is

		<p>necessary to thoroughly refine the Section «Monitoring», to introduce the examples of various monitoring types well-established in the scientific literature into it in a manner, which was previously used for relevant examples to be included into the Roadmap and other Guidance Sections (for example, in the form of highlighted boxes) .</p>
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