Origin of report

Party	BULGARIA
Contact officer for report	
Name and title of contact officer:	Karadimova, Maria PhD. Head of Biodiversity Department
Mailing address:	Ministry of Environment and Water, National Nature Protection Service, Biodiversity Department 22 Maria Louisa blvd. 1000 Sofia , Bulgaria
Telephone:	(+359) 2 940 61 60
Fax:	(+359) 2 981 66 10, (+359) 2 980 9641
E-mail:	mariakara@moew.government.bg
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting report:	
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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report:

The report was prepared by the Bulgarian Government representatives on the base of the information from:

1. Quarterly Reports of Bulgaria on the GEF-UNEP Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks Project.

2. Existing national legislation in the field of the genetically modified organisms.

3. National and regional capacity-building needs and priorities required to implement the Biosafety Protocol that have been identified and categorized in line with the elements of the capacity-building action plan.

Obligations for provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. Several articles of the Protocol require that information be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House (see the list below). For your Government, if there are cases where relevant information exists but has not been provided to the BCH, describe any obstacles or impediments encountered regarding provision of that information (note: To answer this question, please check the BCH to determine the current status of your country's information submissions relative to the list of required information below. If you do not have access to the BCH, contact the Secretariat for a summary):
none

Information required to be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

(a) Existing national legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20.3(a))

(b) National laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.5);

(c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1);

(d) Contact details for competent national authorities (Articles 19.2 and 19.3), national focal points (Articles 19.1 and 19.3), and emergency contacts (Article 17.2 and 17.3(e));

(e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2 and 19.3);

(f) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20.3(e));

(g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17.1);

(h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25.3);

(i) Final decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs (i.e. approval or prohibition, any conditions, requests for further information, extensions granted, reasons for decision) (Articles 10.3 and 20.3(d));

(j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14.4);

(k) Final 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 11.1);

(l) Final 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 11.4) or in accordance with Annex III (Article 11.6) (requirement of Article 20.3(d))

(m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.6)

(n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12.1);

(o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13.1)

(p) Cases where intentional transboundary movement may take place at the same time as the movement is notified to the Party of import (Article 13.1); and

(q) Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information regarding products thereof (Article 20.3(c)).

Article 2 – General provisions

2. Has your country introduced the necessary legal, administrative and other measures for implementation of the Protocol? (Article 2.1)	
a) full domestic regulatory framework in place (please give details below)	
b) some measures introduced (please give details below)	x
c) no measures yet taken	

3. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 2, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

The development, handling, transport, transfer and release of LMOs, except food, food ingredients and pharmaceuticals for humans and animals which contain or consist of LMOs or combination of LMOs, are covered by the Bulgarian GMO Act, which entered into force at 01.06.2005.
This Act has as its objective to protect human health and the environment when carrying out the above mentioned activities in accordance with the precautionary principle, which means priority protection of human health and the environment if any potential harmful effects are likely to be realized, regardless of the existing economic interests or the unavailability of sufficient scientific data.

The development, handling, transport, transfer and release of LMOs, intended for direct use as food or for processing is covered by the Bulgarian Law of Foodstuffs, which is into force from 01.01.2005.

No measures are taken yet for the regulation of the development, handling, transport, transfer and release of LMOs, intended for direct use as feed.

Forthcoming: In the near future (by the end of the year) is expected the adoption of two regulations, concerning the detailed conditions and procedures for risk assessment for contained use of LMOs and specific circumstances for the release into the environment and placing on the market of LMOs, i.e.

- the information contained in the technical dossier attached to any application for deliberate release of living genetically modified organisms (LMOs) into the environment;
- the information, which is contained in the application for the placing on the market of LMOs, the requirements for the monitoring plan;
- the information on the results of the deliberate release into the environment of LMOs in respect of any risk to human health and the environment and the manner of furnishing the said information;
- the rules for development of the unique identifier for LMOs intended for placing on the market as or in products;
- the minimum threshold of LMOs below which the rules for labeling do not apply;
- the rules for traceability of LMOs which are placed on the market as or in products;
- the rules for withdrawal from the market and for destruction of LMOs or of products consisting of LMOs or containing LMOs.

Obstacles encountered:
The delays, observed in taking some measures necessary for the effective implementation of the Protocol are mainly due to the lack of administrative and financial capacity. In order to overcome these obstacles the Bulgarian Government started an enlargement of its administrative capacity in the subsequent areas.

Articles 7 to 10 and 12: The advance informed agreement procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

4. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by exporters 1/ under the jurisdiction of your country? (Article 8.2)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	
5. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, did you request any Party of import to review a decision it had made under Article 10 on the grounds specified in Article 12.2?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	x
6. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 9.2(c).	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	x
7. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of export	
8. If your country has taken decisions on import of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	

1/ The use of terms in the questions follows the meanings accorded to them under Article 3 of the Protocol

Article 11 – Procedure for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

9. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by the applicant with respect to the domestic use of a living modified organism that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.2)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
c) not applicable (please give details below)	
10. Has your country indicated its needs for financial and technical assistance and capacity building in respect of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.9)	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	x
c) not relevant	
11. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 11.4?	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	x
12. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of export	
13. If your country has been a Party of import of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
not applicable – not a Party of import	

Article 13 – Simplified procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

14. If your country has used the simplified procedure during the reporting period, please describe your experiences in implementing Article 13, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
not applicable – simplified procedure not used

Article 14 – Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

15. If your country has entered into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements, describe your experiences in implementing Article 14 during the reporting period, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
not applicable – no agreements or arrangement existing

Articles 15 and 16 – Risk assessment and risk management

16. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, were risk assessments carried out for all decisions taken under Article 10? (Article 15.2)	
a) yes	
b) no (please clarify below)	
c) not a Party of import	x
17. If yes, did you require the exporter to carry out the risk assessment?	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	x
18. If you took a decision under Article 10 during the reporting period, did you require the notifier to bear the cost of the risk assessment? (Article 15.3)	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	
19. Has your country established and maintained appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks identified in the risk assessment provisions of the Protocol? (Article 16.1)	
a) yes	
b) no	x
20. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
21. Does your country endeavour to ensure that any living modified organism, whether imported or locally developed, undergoes an appropriate period of observation commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use? (Article 16.4)	
a) yes – in all cases	x
b) yes – in some cases (please give further details below)	
c) no (please give further details below)	
d) not applicable (please give further details below)	

22. Has your country cooperated with others for the purposes specified in Article 16.5?	
a) yes (please give further details below)	
b) no (please give further details below)	x

23. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Articles 15 and 16, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
At the moment no special mechanisms for regulation, management and control of the risks, identified in the risk assessment exist, besides those, provided by the Bulgarian GMO Act. According to those provisions each exporter must enclose to the risk assessment the proposed methods for safe handling, storage, transport and use, including packaging, labeling, record keeping, destruction and emergency procedures. Also if a risk for the human health or the environment is identified, there are procedures for temporary limitation or prohibition of the use or marketing of the GMO, object to the risk assessment. The observation of the described measures prevents the unintentional transboundary movements. Anyway, if such occur and are identified the advanced informed agreement procedure of the Protocol applies, as stipulated by the Bulgarian GMO Act.

Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

24. During the reporting period, if there were any occurrences under your jurisdiction that led, or could have led, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that had, or could have had, significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health in such States, did you immediately consult the affected or potentially affected States for the purposes specified in Article 17.4?	
a) yes – all relevant States immediately	
b) partially (please clarify below)	
c) no (please clarify below)	x

25. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 17, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
No such occurrences.

Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification

26. Has your country taken measures to require that living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement within the scope of the Protocol are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into account relevant international rules and standards? (Article 18.1)	
a) yes (please give details below)	x
b) no	
c) not applicable (please clarify below)	
27. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, clearly identifies that they 'may contain' living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for information? (Article 18.2(a))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
28. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are destined for contained use clearly identifies them as living modified organisms and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the living modified organisms are consigned? (Article 18.2(b))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
29. Has your country adopted measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import and any other living modified organisms within the scope of the Protocol, 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 this Protocol applicable to the exporter? (Article 18.2(c))	
a) yes	x
b) no	
30. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 18, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
According to the provisions of the Bulgarian GMO Act each exporter must enclose to the risk assessment the proposed methods for safe handling, storage, transport and use, including packaging, labeling, record keeping, destruction and emergency procedures. By the virtue of the same law measures are taken to assure the presence of the documentation cited in the above questions i.e.: ➢ the documentation accompanying **LMOs that are destined for contained use** clearly identifies them as LMOs and specifies any requirements for safe handling, storage, transport and use; contact point; name and address of the person to whom the LMOs are consigned in the importing country and the unique identifier(s) of the LMO(s); ➢ the documentation accompanying **LMOs that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment**, clearly identifies them as LMOs and includes: o the unique identifier(s) , if such has been assigned to the relevant LMO(s);	

- the identity and relevant traits and characteristics of the GMOs;
- any requirements for the safe use, storage and transport of these GMOs;
- the name, address and telephone number of a contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name, address and telephone number of the person whereto the GMOs are consigned;
- a declaration that the export is in conformity with the requirements of the Protocol.

LMOs for direct use as food or feed, or for processing are into the scope of the Bulgarian Law on Foodstuffs, and the documentation accompanying them is especially stipulated by the Ordinance for the requirements for the labeling and the presenting of the foods. According the latter in the documents accompanying LMOs-FFP is used:

- the wording "LMO" or " Produced from LM [name of the ingredient]" next to the concrete ingredient in the list of the ingredients
- the wording " consists of LM [name of the organis m]" or " consists of [name of the ingredient], produced from LM [name of the organism]"
- the wording "LMO" or "produced from LM [name of the organism]" is clearly stated at the label when there is no ingredient list.

The "may contain" language is not used

The Ordinance for the requirements for the labeling and the presenting of the foods does not apply to the export of LMOs, which is regulated by the Bulgarian Law on Foodstuffs as follows:

"Applied for the foodstuffs of local production shall also be the requirements of the country importer if it does not contradict an international agreement".

By that means the provision of Article 18 of the Protocol are fully transposed into our domestic legislation. At the moment no obstacles have been encountered in the implementation due to the lack of transboundary movements during the reported period.

Article 19 – Competent national authorities and national focal points

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Article 20 – Information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

31. In addition to the response to question 1, please describe any further details regarding your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 20, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
All the existing laws and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Protocol , as well as the information required by the Parties for the advance informed agreement is available on the BCH (http://bch.biodiv.org/database/results.aspx?searchid=160891&page=1). No obstacles or impediments encountered.

Article 21 – Confidential information

32. Does your country have procedures to protect confidential information received under the Protocol and that protect the confidentiality of such information in a manner no less favourable than its treatment of confidential information in connection with domestically produced living modified organisms? (Article 21.3)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
33. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, did you permit any notifier to identify information submitted under the procedures of the Protocol or required by the Party of import as part of the advance informed agreement procedure that was to be treated as confidential? (Article 21.1)	
a) yes	
If yes, please give number of cases	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of import	x
34. If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide information on your experience including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:	
35. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, please describe any impediments or difficulties encountered by you, or by exporters under your jurisdiction if information is available, in the implementation of the requirements of Article 21:	
not applicable – not a Party of export	

Article 22 – Capacity-building

36. If a developed country Party, during this reporting period has your country cooperated in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and in Parties with economies in transition?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a developed country Party	x
37. If yes, how has such cooperation taken place:	
38. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the proper and safe management of biotechnology to the extent that it is required for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	x
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
b) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	
39. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the use of risk assessment and risk management for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	x
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	

40. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training for enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	x
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	

41. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 22, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

During the reported period Bulgaria was running the GEF-UNEP Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks Project (02.2002-02.2005, prolonged till 02.2006).

The main goal of the project is to support the establishment of the regulatory and administrative biosafety management system in order to enable an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology, with a specific focus on transboundary movements in Bulgaria i.e.:
- to establish procedures for risk assessment and monitoring in order to ensure the safe use of modern biotechnology taking into account national, sub-regional and regional needs.
- to strengthen capacity through training of trainers on the following subjects: a) LMOs risk assessment and risk management; b) LMOs testing and monitoring; c) legal issues; d) institutional sets up and e) Intellectual Property Rights/commercial issues.
- to promote and strengthen information sharing and dissemination among the relevant stakeholders, and enhance public awareness.

The main capacity-building areas of the project are:

- Human-resources development and training
- Information exchange & data management (including the Biosafety Clearing-House)
- Institutional capacity building (including national regulatory frameworks)
- Public awareness, education and participation
- Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise
- Scientific, technical and institutional collaboration

The stage of the developments at the early 2003 as well as the **quarterly operational and financial reports** of the project are available at http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/partcountries/ImpBulgaria.htm

The following targets are reached within the project period:
A. Biosafety policy

B. Regulation regime for biosafety
Achievements:
- GMO Act finalized
- Regulatory norms for the enforcement of the GMO Act elaborated

C. System for handling requests for permits
Achievements:
- started development of a guidance for ensuring biosafety of the contained use of LMOs

- started survey on the existing internal biosafety system around the world
- draft checklists for the inspectors developed

D. Monitoring and inspections

Achievements:

- four risk assessment studies concerning the environmental impact of the release of LMOs on ecosystems started
- finished 2-year study – Bulgarian Botanical Files - the other project, which operates in the frame of UNEP/GEF implementation project in Bulgaria. The aim of this study consists of summarizing of floristic, ecological and biological information into a dispersal codes that will be used in risk assessment studies for estimation the gene flow from cultvars into wild of weedy species.

E. Public information

Achievements:

see question 47.

Needs remain unmet:

Although the Bulgarian GMO Act is in force which is of a great importance as a starting point for further developments, still several modifications have to be done. Some of the provisions of the Act are inconsistent with the Cartagena Protocol's case-by-case approach, EU directives and other relevant international agreements.

More technical and scientific training for enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety still needed.

Forthcoming:

At the end of this year Bulgaria will start a twinning project with a German/Austrian team entitled " Transposition and implementation of the environment acquis on GMOs on national level" which aims to meet the most of the Bulgarian capacity-building needs.

Article 23 – Public awareness and participation

42. Does your country promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health? (Article 23.1(a))	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) no	
43. If yes, do you cooperate with other States and international bodies?	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) no	
44. Does your country endeavour to ensure that public awareness and education encompass access to information on living modified organisms identified in accordance with the Protocol that may be imported? (Article 23.1(b))	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
45. Does your country, in accordance with its respective laws and regulations, consult the public in the decision-making process regarding living modified organisms and make the results of such decisions available to the public? (Article 23.2)	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
46. Has your country informed its public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House? (Article 23.3)	
a) yes – fully	x
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
47. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 23, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
In the frame of UNEP-GEF Biosafety Project on the implementation of the national biosafety framework of Bulgaria the staff of this project kept and developed the dialogue with the media representatives during the ongoing discussions of the project of the Bulgarian GMO Act in the Parliament i.e. interviews for newspapers, TV, radio stations, participation in public debates, discussion clubs and preparation of the regular Biosafety Newsletters, thus building up wide public awareness. Amongst the achievements of the project are: o Introductory seminar for parliamentarians; o Training course for journalists	

- Science Media Communications workshop

Bulgarian Biotechnology Information Center was established as a part of the international network of similar centers.

Valuable information on biotechnology and biosafety has been regularly distributed through the website of the Bulgarian Biotechnology Information Center , news mailing list (scientists, journalists, regulators, NGOs).

The stuff also participated in public debates, round table discussions, writing articles for business and agricultural oriented magazines.

Consulting the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs is foreseen in the Bulgarian GMO Act– e.g. public hearings before taking decision for the release into the environment or placing at the market of GMOs. In order to inform the public before the hearings the information about the certain case is accessible via Internet.

The Bulgarian Biodiversity Portal is a part of the global information exchange network established by the Convention on Biodiversity (Clearing House Mechanism - CHM). Its purpose is to offer directly or provide links to the information on biodiversity. From this portal is publicly accessible the Biosafety Clearing House.

Article 24 – Non-Parties

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House**.**

48. If there have been transboundary movements of living modified organisms between your country and a non-Party, please provide information on your experience, including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:
not applicable- no transboundary movements of LMO for the reported period.

Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

49. Has your country adopted appropriate domestic measures to prevent and penalize, as appropriate, transboundary movements of living modified organisms carried out in contravention of its domestic measures? (Article 25.1)	
a) yes	x
b) no	
50. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 25, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
The National Customs Agency shall exercise control upon import, export and transit of GMOs according to the Bulgarian Customs Act in the cases of: 1. doubt as to whether the goods correspond to the information declared in the documents accompanying the said goods; 2. declared GMO which is not accompanied by an authorization according to the procedure established by the Bulgarian GMO Act 3. advanced notification from the competent authorities. Further for prevention and cessation of administrative violations under this Act, as well as for prevention and mitigation of the harmful effects of any such violations, the Minister of Environment and Water or the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall apply a number of coercive administrative measures.	

Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations

51. If during this reporting period your country has taken a decision on import, did it take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.1)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	x
52. Has your country cooperated with other Parties on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, especially on indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.2)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	x
53. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 26, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	

Article 28 – Financial mechanism and resources

54. Please indicate if, during the reporting period, your government made financial resources available to other Parties or received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions, for the purposes of implementation of the Protocol.	
a) yes – made financial resources available to other Parties	
b) yes – received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions	x
c) both	
d) neither	
55. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
UNEP-GEF Biosafety Project on the implementation of the national biosafety framework – see the financial reports of the project.	

Other information

56. Please use this box to provide any other information related to articles of the Protocol, questions in the reporting format, or other issues related to national implementation of the Protocol:

Comments on reporting format

The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Protocol. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions:

no difficulties were encountered.