FIRST REGULAR NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Origin of report

Party:	Italy
Contact officer for report	
Name and title of contact officer:	Aldo Cosentino
Mailing address:	Via Capitan Bavastro 174 I – 00154 Rome Italy
Telephone:	+39 06 57228701
Fax:	+39 06 57228707
E-mail:	dpn-dg@minambiente.it dpn-biosicurezza@minambiente.it
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting report:	Aldo Cosentino
Date of submission:	August 31, 2007
Time period covered by this report:	From September 2005 to august 2007

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 has been prepared by the National Competent Authority after having consulted on the various topics with representatives from relevant ministries, research institute and Universities during the meetings of the Interministerial Evaluation Committee (the biosafety national technical body).

Also, as part of the European Community, Italy has developed a domestic legal framework related to the EC. Much of the details regarding such regulatory framework can be seen in the report presented by the European Community.

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 Biosafety Clearing-House (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):

All biosafety information is provided through the national BCH, which is constantly fed with new information in this area.

Not all information is always integrated into the Italian Country Profile of the CBD Secretariat BCH mainly due to the fact that such responsibility is with the European Community.

The Italian BCH is linked and accessible from the CBD Secretariat BCH, the biosafety area of the OECD portal and the Joint Research Centre of the European Community.

2. Please provide an overview of information that is required to be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

Type of information	*Information exists and is being provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House*	*Information exists but is not yet provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House*	*Information does not exist /not applicable*
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))	X		
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);	X		
c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1);			X
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));	X		
e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2 and 19.3);	X		
f) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20.3(e));	X		

g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17.1);			X
Type of information	*Information exists and is being provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House*	*Information exists but is not yet provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House*	*Information does not exist /not applicable*
h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25.3);			X
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));	X- Provided by the European Commission		
j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14.4);			X
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);			X
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))	X- Provided by the European Commission		
m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.6)	X- Provided by the European Commission		
n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12.1);	X- Provided by the European Commission		
o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13.1)			X
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);			X
q) Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information			X

regarding products thereof (Article 20.3(c)).			

Article 2 – General provisions

3. 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)	X
b) some measures introduced (please give details below)	
c) no measures yet taken	
4. 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:	
As an EU Member State, Italy complies with European Community law. The relevant law is EC Regulation 1946/2003, which went into effect in November 2003. This Regulation states the obligations of the EU with regard to exports of GMOs to third countries. EU Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed, and Regulation 1830/2003 concerning the traceability and labelling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed products produced from genetically modified organisms and amending directive 2001/18/EC, both went into effect in April 2004. The Italian legal framework to apply the EU Directives and regulations are as follows: ➢ The Decree "Dlvo 224/2003" to implement Dir 2001/18/CE; ➢ The Decree "Dlvo 206/2001" to implement Dir 90/219/EEC as amended by Directive 98/81/EC on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms; ➢ The Decree "Dlvo 70/2005" on sanctions for violations to EC Directives No.1829/2003 and No. 1830/2003	

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

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

5. Were you a Party of import during this reporting period?	
a) yes	X
b) no	
6. Were you a Party of export during this reporting period?	
a) yes	
b) no	X
7. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	

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

d) not applicable – not a Party of export	
8. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
d) not applicable – not a Party of export	X
9. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 9.2(c).	
a) yes	X
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	
10. 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 party of export	
11. 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:	
According to EU legislation (EU Directive 2001/18/EC and Regulation 1829/2003), all decisions concerning imports for placing on the market, including release into the environment, are made at the EU level. No decisions regarding the release of GM crops onto the market for cultivation have been made during the period covered by this report. Decisions on releases in the form of field trials are made at the national level. Decisions on field trials are always based on an application corresponding to the provisions of Articles 7–10 and 12. Consent must be given by the competent authority before release into the environment and there is no difference if the LMO is nationally produced or imported.	

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.

12. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
d) not applicable (please give details below)	
13. 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	
c) not relevant	X
14. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 11.4?	
a) yes	X
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	
15. 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 party of export	
16. 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:	
Italy, as part of the European Community, follows the comprehensive legal framework on GMOs developed at European Union level, which also addresses the import of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing. The EC has declared with reference to Article 14.4 Cartagena Protocol that it relies on its existing legislative framework for intentional movements of GMOs within the Community and for imports of GMOs into the EC.	

Article 13 – Simplified procedure

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

17. Have you applied the simplified procedure during the reporting period?	
a) yes	
b) no	X
18. If your country has used the simplified procedure during the reporting period, or if you have been unable to do so for some reason, please describe your experiences in implementing Article 13, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	

Article 14 – Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

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

19. Has your country entered into any bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements?	
a) yes	
b) no	X
20. If your country has entered into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements, or if you have been unable to do so for some reason, describe your experiences in implementing Article 14 during the reporting period, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	

Articles 15 and 16 – Risk assessment and risk management

21. 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 / no decisions taken under Article 10	X
22. If yes to question 21, 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 / no decisions taken under Article 10	X
23. 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	
d) not a Party of import / no decisions taken under Article 10	X
24. 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 – fully established	X
b) not yet, but under development or partially established (please give further details below)	
c) no	
25. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3)	
a) yes – fully adopted	X
b) not yet, but under development or partially adopted (please give further details below)	
c) no	
26. 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)	
27. 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
28. 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:	
Italy, as part of the European Community, has put in place a comprehensive system of risk assessment and risk management dealing with releases into the environment or placing on the market of GMOs, whether imported into or developed within the EC. The aim of the environmental risk assessment is, on a case by case basis, to identify and evaluate potential adverse effects of the GMO, both direct and indirect, immediate or delayed, on human health and the environment. Risk assessments contained in notifications made under EU Regulation 1829/2003 are evaluated by the European Food Safety Authority and the competent authorities of the Member States. Annex VII of the Directive 2001/18/CE also provides guidance on the monitoring plan as part of the risk management strategy.	

Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

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

29. 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) yes – partially consulted, or consultations were delayed (please clarify below)	
c) no – did not consult immediately (please clarify below)	
d) not applicable (no such occurrences)	X
30. 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 occurrence	

Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification

31. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	

d) not applicable (please clarify below)	
32. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
33. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
34. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
35. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as a description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 18, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Italy, as part of the European Community, has developed a comprehensive legal framework on GMOs, which also addresses the issues of handling, transport, packaging and identification requirement covered by Article 18. Italy is also a Contracting Party to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).	

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.

36. 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:
Italy developed a national BCH integrated within the website of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection http://bch.minambiente.it The Italian BCH is designed as an information-sharing platform in support to the decision-making process on national biosafety issues. It is constructed within the international framework set up by the Convention on Biological Diversity, it follows the indications of the Aarhus Convention, it reflects the provisions of the European Community, it responds to the requirements of the Italian Law on public consultation and access to information, and supports the development of implementation legislation by the Italian Regional Authorities. The Italian BCH consists of five different sections, comprising: a. A Descriptive sections, which provides general information on biosafety issues, including links with relevant Institutions and Organisations; b. A section on biosafety, with the general outlines of the principles for risk assessment and risk management, as well as the link to some informatics tools for biosafety; c. A Legislation section, with a collection of National, European Community and International legislative texts relevant for biosafety; d. A section on the use of LMOs, including tools for the information and the participation of the public in the area of the experimental and commercial release of LMOs; e. A BCH sections which performs the information tasks required by the Cartagena Protocol and under the competence of EU Member States as defined by Regulation (EC) 1946/2003. Italy also cooperates with the information management activities of the European Community through the Joint Research Centre and the GMOREGEX.

Article 21 – Confidential information

37. 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) not yet, but under development	
c) no	
38. 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	X
If yes, please give number of cases	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of import / no such requests received	

39. If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide information on your experience including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:
Italy, as a member of the European Union, allows notifiers to indicate information to be treated as confidential, provided that verifiable justification is given. However, final decision on what information will be treated as confidential is taken by the Competent Authority after consultation with the notifier. More details on the European Community legal procedures that apply in Italy, along with the limitations to confidentiality are presented in the report of the European Community.
40. 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, no party of export.

Article 22 – Capacity-building

41. 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)	X
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a developed country Party	
42. If yes to question 41, how has such cooperation taken place:	
The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea Protection financed a workshop titled "Introduction to Risk Assessment for the Deliberate Release of GMOs: Assisting Decision-Making in a Biosafety Framework". The workshop, organised and hosted by the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), was attended by a number of participants from Competent Authorities and relevant Institutions in Developing Countries, whose participation costs were all covered by the organiser.	
43. If a developing country Party, or Party with an economy in transition, during this reporting period has your country contributed to the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol in another developing country Party or Party with an economy in transition?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a developing country Party	X
44. If yes to question 43, how has such cooperation taken place:	
45. 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)	
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	X
46. 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)	
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	X
47. 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)	
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	X
48. 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:	

Article 23 – Public awareness and participation

49. 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	
50. If yes, do you cooperate with other States and international bodies?	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	X

c) no	
51. 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	
52. 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	
53. 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	
54. 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:	

The Italian effort to education and participation on biosafety issues has mainly been deployed through the BCH website (http://bch.minambiente.it). The site is developed in order to provide full access to information related to ongoing notifications from civil society and the general public. Comments on notifications can also be sent to the Competent Authority via the BCH so that public opinion is taken into consideration in the decision-making process.

The Italian BCH consists of five different sections, comprising:

a. A descriptive section which provides general information on biosafety issues, including links with relevant institutions and organisations;
b. A section on biosafety with the general outlines of the principles for risk assessment and risk management as well as the links to some informatics tools for biosafety;
c. A legislation section with a collection of national, Community and international legislative texts relevant to biosafety;
d. A section on the use of LMOs including tools for the information and the participation of the public in the area of the experimental and commercial release of LMOs;
e. A BCH section which performs the information task required by the Cartagena Protocol and under the competence of EU Member States and defined by Regulation (EC) 1946/2003.

Such work has been developed and is managed with the technical support of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

Less active effort has so far been put on public awareness at national level by the Competent Authority. However, biosafety issues are often covered by NGOs campaigns and by national and local media.

Article 24 – Non-Parties

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

55. Have there been any transboundary movements of living modified organisms between your country and a non-Party during the reporting period?	
a) yes	
b) no	X
56. 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	

Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements

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

57. 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	
58. Have there been any illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms into your country during the reporting period?	
a) yes	
b) no	X
59. 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:	
Infringements to domestic legislation on transboundary movements of LMOs are penalised by Decree 224/2003 (Art. 34 for deliberate release into the environment and Art. 35 for FFP). Prevention and control actions are carried out by a specialised body of Italian Army Police (Carabinieri per la Tutela Ambientale).	

Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations

60. 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	X
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	

61. 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

62. 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:
The issue of socio economic impacts (both positive and negative) of LMOs is, as appropriate, taken into consideration within the risk management process of LMOs. In particular, Italy has enacted a National Law to allow co-existence of transgenic, traditional and organic crops, based on a EC Recommendation on guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming issued by the EC (Recc. 2003/556/EC). Such issue, however, is becoming of growing interest among the central and Regional and local Authorities. A debate on how to deal with coexistence and on how to take socio economic issues into a more appropriate consideration is still ongoing.

Article 28 – Financial mechanism and resources

63. 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	X
b) yes – received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions	
c) both	
d) neither	

64. 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:
Italy funded and hosted the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment in November 2006.

Other information

65. 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:
No comment

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:

Some minor confusion related to the use of the term BCH since there is a Secretariat BCH and a National BCH.