



AGRÁRMINISZTERIUM

**POSSIBLE WAYS OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON THE
FIELD OF BIOSAFETY.
THE POLICY PERSPECTIVE.**

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The round table „Enhancing the CEE collaboration and know-how transfer in biotechnology and biosecurity”



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Article 5. Cooperation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.





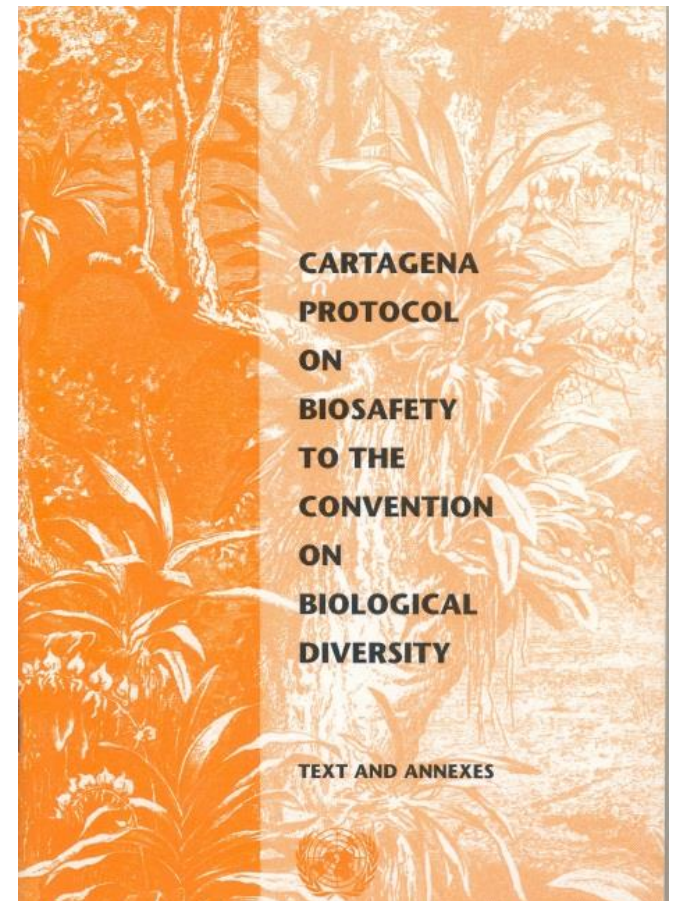
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Article 14

Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Agreements and Arrangements

1.

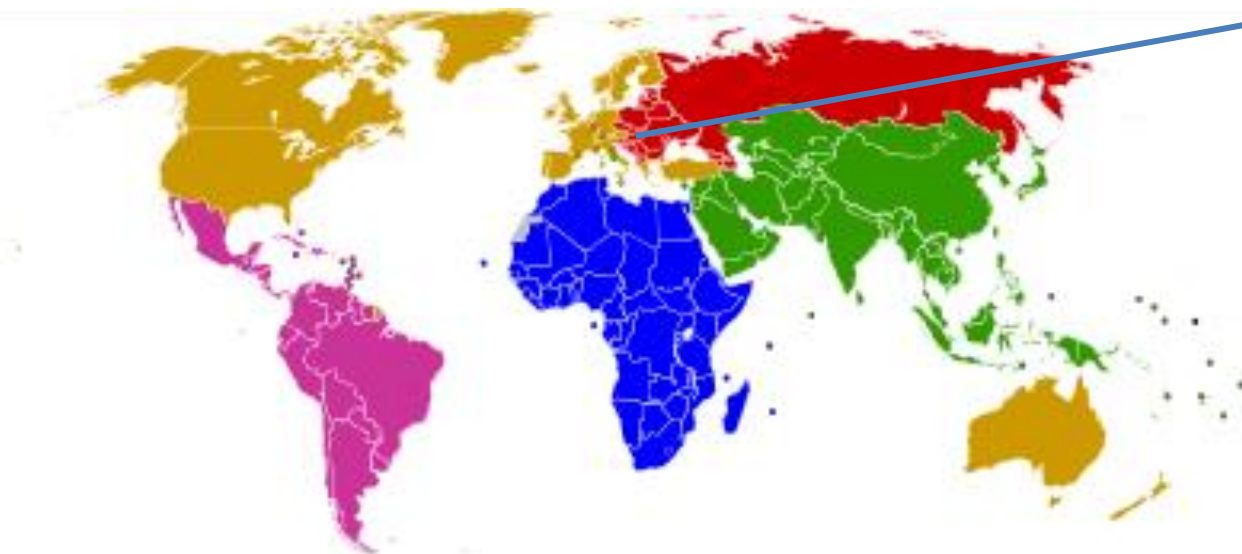
Parties may enter into bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements regarding intentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms, consistent with the objective of this Protocol and provided that such agreements and arrangements do not result in a lower level of protection than that provided for by the Protocol.





HUNGARY'S ROLE

Central and Eastern European Group (CEE)



Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

European Union





ACT NO. LIII. OF 1996 ON NATURE CONSERVATION



Basic Principles Article 5

(4) In the interest of nature conservation, **Hungary shall co-operate** with other governments and international organisations and participate in international nature conservation conventions. **Hungary shall take into account nature conservation interests of other governments even where such conventions do not apply.**

General Provisions for the Conservation of Wildlife Article 9

(6) **The production of genetically modified organisms** which influence biodiversity, the experiments carried out with them, their breeding, distribution, exportation and importation **shall be exercised by the conditions and methods laid down in a separate provision of law** and in compliance with the provisions of this law.



AGRÁRMINISZTÉRIUM

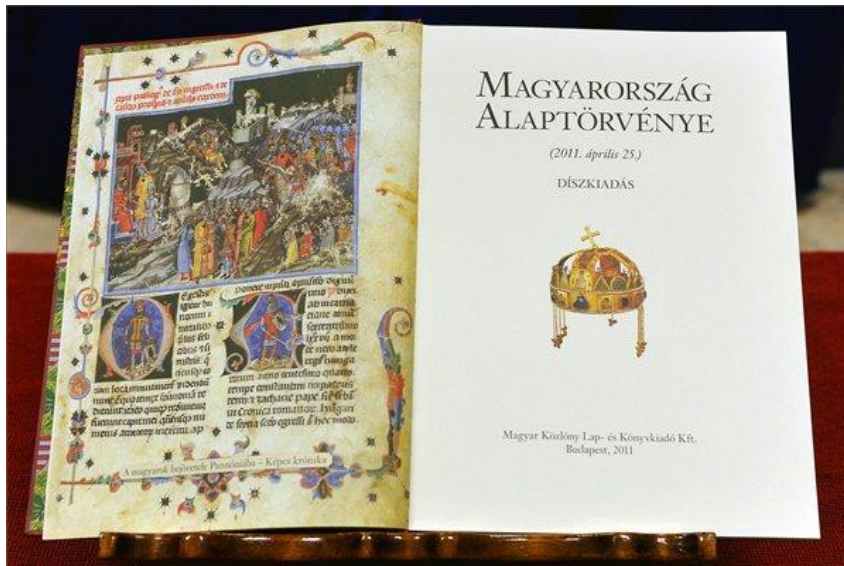
ACT No. XXVII OF 1998 ON GENE TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES

- first in Central-Eastern Europe to adopt a specific legal framework in 1998
- more than five years before EU accession (2004)
- all activities related to gene technology such as trade, production, distribution, use, transportation, cultivation, and also related to research activities, such as contained uses and field trials are subject to authorisation procedure





FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF HUNGARY



2006 Parliamentary Decision
„Hungary’s GMO-free status”

Fundamental Law of Hungary
(1st January 2012)

Hungarian strategy on GMOs

„**Article XX**

(1) Every person shall have the right to physical and mental health.

(2) Hungary shall promote the exercise of the right set out in Paragraph (1) by ensuring that its agriculture remains free from any genetically modified **organism**, by providing access to healthy food and drinking water, by managing industrial safety and healthcare, by supporting sports and regular physical exercise, and by ensuring environmental protection.”



EXAMPLES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Initiative on establishing the Alps-Adriatic region as a GMO-free zone
- Amflora GM potato Court case
- Danube Soya Initiative
- Alliance for the GMO-free Europe
- European Soy Declaration



INITIATIVE ON ESTABLISHING THE ALPS-ADRIATIC REGION AS GMO-FREE ZONE

- Croatian initiative
- aim of preserving the biodiversity of the entire Alps-Adriatic region, the traditional and organic agricultural production inherent to the heritage of Central Europe, further stimulate agricultural production, and promote tourism
- 2011- Hungary joined to the initiative

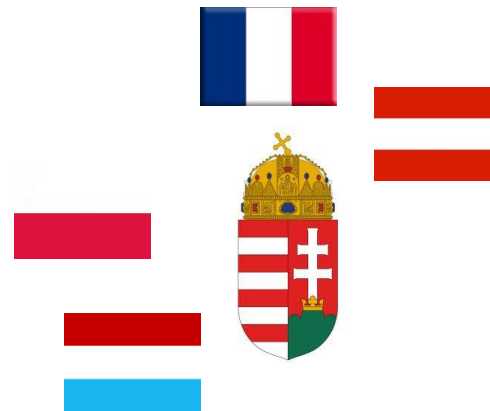


Austrian regions, Croatia, Hungary, Italian regions, Slovenia



AMFLORA GM POTATO

- May, 2010
- Hungary, supported by several other Member States, challenged the European Commission's decision on the authorisation of the Amflora GM potato
- Judgment of the General Court of 13 December 2013 — Hungary v Commission (Case T-240/10) (2014/C 39/26)
- European Court of Justice annulled the decisions approving and authorising the general production of Amflora GM potato in its judgement





DANUBE SOYA INITIATIVE



- Danube Soya Association: widespread political support
- 14 countries have supported the Association's objectives by signing the Donau Soja Declaration
 - Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Republika Srpska, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine
- signed by Hungary during the International Green Week agricultural trade fair, Berlin, 2013
- a comprehensive new protein policy for agricultural food and feed production
- promote soya cultivation as part of sustainable crop rotation
- a reduction of import dependency
- a targeted development of GM-free food products





ALLIANCE FOR THE GMO-FREE EUROPE



- In 2015 as part of the policy Hungary launched the “Alliance for the GMO-free Europe” in order to preserve the GMO-free status of agriculture and food production.
- reach and/or maintain the GM-free status of countries with concrete steps at European, regional, national and at local level,
- in order to achieve GM-free agriculture and food production and contribute to the protection of biodiversity,
- supported by 18 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Poland, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia.



EUROPEAN SOYA DECLARATION



- 17 July 2017 in Brussels, Belgium
- 15 EU agriculture ministers
 - Austria, Croatia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland
- joint accomplishment of the Donau Soja Organisation and the agriculture ministers,
- European agriculture and food production need a comprehensive protein policy to counterbalance the amount of GM soy mainly imported from outside the EU, used in feed and food production,
- European import mainly from South-America: around 40 million tonnes of soya beans per year - highly dependent on a foreign protein supply,
- protein plants are grown on only 2 to 3% of European fields,
- especially in Central and Eastern Europe, large areas suitable for protein plants can be found - areas where only a few crops are cultivated throughout the year,
- by growing protein plants such as soya beans, peas or broad beans, farmers could introduce more variety onto their fields and use their harvest as animal feed,
- reduce dependence on feed imports from overseas and would be a chance for rural development.



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**