

Public Research & Regulation

Foundation with the objective to involve the public research sector in regulations and international agreements relevant to modern biotechnology

Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Montreal, Canada, 30 May - 3 June 2005).

Statement on notifications

Thank you Mr. Co-chair

As this is the first time that the Foundation for Public Research and Regulation takes the floor in this working group, we congratulate you and your co-chair with your election and with your able handling of this meeting.

Mr. Co-chair, with regard to the issue of notifications, our main interest concerns the information requirements for small-scale confined field-testing for research and risk assessment purposes.

Small-scale field trials are an important component of the work being done by public researchers. It is recognized that the risk associated with these small-scale activities is generally low because of the way confined field trials are conducted.

Therefore, we propose that the MOP explicitly acknowledges that the level of detail required for a notification under Article 8 should be commensurate with the lower level of risk associated with small-scale confined field trials, similar to the approach in Annex III. As you will appreciate, unnecessary information requirements will unduly burden public research.

Mr. Co-chair, we wish to emphasize that public researchers are not asking for special treatment for their activities. What we ask for is that procedural requirements are commensurate with the level of risk involved.

We would be happy to assist delegates in their deliberations about this.

Thank you very much for your attention Mr. co-Chair.