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## Croatia

### Biotechnology

## New Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

### 2005

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**Report Highlights:**

On May 27, the Croatian Government passed a new Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) that replaced the "biotechnology-regulating provisions" of the Law on Protection of Nature. The new law was published in Governmental Gazette num. 70 on June 8, 2005.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
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Vienna [AU1]  
[HR]

On May 27, the Croatian Government passed a new Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) that replaced the "biotechnology-regulating provisions" of the Law on Protection of Nature. The new law was published in Governmental Gazette num. 70 on June 8, 2005.

Previous to this new legislation, the Law on Protection of Nature was the overarching law on biotechnology issues, combined with the Food Law and future sub-laws, that regulated the importation, transshipment, production, usage, and sale of products of agricultural biotech products (including all food, feed and seed). The GMO Law removed the previous provisions regarding biotechnology in the Law on Protection of Nature and replaced them as a new separate piece of legislation. The Food Law will remain the main law for regulating biotech food and feed.

The new Law on GMOs differs slightly from the previous GMO articles (as contained in the Law on Protection of Nature). However, the substance of the Law remains mostly the same as compared to the previous provisions (see GAIN report, HR 3019). The main changes between the new law and the previous provisions of the Law on Protection of Nature include:

- The Ministry of Health will become the coordinating (lead/overseeing) ministry for all biotech issues.
- Articles 31, 34, 44 and 48 define European Union involvement in the process of different approvals.
- Article 6 notes that against administrative acts that central governmental bodies (i.e. ministries mentioned in this Law) make as a basis of this Law, formal complaints are not allowed. However, administrative disputes (that is, litigation) is permitted.
- Scientific bodies implementing this law are more clearly defined.
- The Council for GMOs, the Board for Limited Usage of GMOs, and the Board for GMO Introduction into the Environment remain intact with the Board for Limited Usage of GMOs requiring 11 members (as compared to 9 in the past).
- Minor changes in responsibilities of the various ministries and shared responsibilities within the Government.