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Prepared By: Tatjana Maslac

Approved By: Charles Rush

Report Highlights:

After over ten years, Serbia still has not implemented changes to its Law on Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs) which was adopted in 2009. The current law strictly prohibits the importation, production, or commercial growing of genetically engineered (GE) crops. The law does not conform to European Union (EU) regulations or the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. In order to become a member of the EU and the WTO, Serbia needs to amend the current law. Serbia prepared an amended Law on GEOs in May 2018, but this law was never submitted into the national approval process. There are no livestock clones or other GE animals (including fish, birds, insects, mammals) or GE genetics being used in commercial production in Serbia.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2009, Serbia adopted the current Law on Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs), which strictly prohibits the importation, production, or commercial growing of genetically engineered (GE) crops. The law does not conform to European Union (EU) regulations or the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. In order to become a member of the EU and the WTO, Serbia needs to amend the current law.

Since the adoption of the restrictive law, Serbia has been considering potential amendments to make the law WTO compliant. Namely, it would create a mechanism that would allow for a scientific risk assessment of applications to import or grow GE crops and products. The current proposal being considered would establish a general framework for regulating biotechnology and adopt several by-laws to cover the use of GE products in closed systems, the placement of GE products on the market, labeling and traceability, authorized laboratories, packaging, transportation, and other related issues. There also would be changes in terminology to the four existing by-laws.

There has been strong political resistance to make any changes to the current law. Until 2019, around 140 Serbian cities and municipalities have signed the so-called "Declaration on GEOs" calling for a ban on GE products in their municipalities. Serbia also has signed the "Danube Soya Association" declaration to promote non-GE soy cultivation and processing in the Danube region of Europe. Danube Soya Association http://www.donausoja.org/en-en is an international non-profit association based in Vienna, Austria which was founded in 2012, whose main members are farmers, agricultural traders, feed companies, major retailers, and green organizations. The association's intention is to promote sustained GE-free soya bean cultivation in Europe.

In Serbia, a number of new civil society groups have appeared sponsoring anti-GE crop campaigns. The number of these anti-biotech public events and the level of media coverage dealing with the agricultural biotechnology issue have increased over the last 5-7 years. Consequently, agricultural biotechnology remains extremely unpopular in Serbia, and it is this angle that is typically covered by the press. Several political organizations on the extremes of the political spectrum have also taken up the issue of genetic engineering, hoping to use it to fuel anti-EU and U.S. sentiments. Both the Green Party and right-wing groups have representatives in the Serbian Parliament and are vocal opponents of lifting the current ban on GE products and crops.

Serbia's agriculture experts believe that the country's competitive advantage can be realized by seeking a premium for high quality "natural" or "organic" products rather than competing on volume. Thus, there is concern about the potential market consequences of adopting pro-GE policies as well as a strong bias against GE products as somehow being "unnatural." Additionally, Serbian politicians and the public remain misinformed about GE products and view them as potentially dangerous.

There are no livestock clones or other GE animals (including fish, birds, insects, mammals) or GE genetics being used in commercial production in Serbia.

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PART A: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a) PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: In Serbia, there are no GE crops under development. While there is no mechanism to approve GE crops, there is a framework for doing research work, which is governed by a strict application and monitoring process. Although there are no GE field trials being conducted, in theory, permits for research work and contained use of biotech materials can be obtained from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) after the State's regulatory requirements have been met.

b) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION: Serbia does not commercially cultivate any GE crops. The area planted for non-GE soybeans in marketing year[1] (MY) 20120/21 was 240,000 hectares, about 5 percent higher than in MY2019/20. Due to the excellent weather conditions, in MY2020/21 Serbia has good average yields of 2.85 metric tons per hectare (usual average yield is 2.5 metric tons per hectare) with total production of non-GE soybeans can reach the capacity of approximately 690,000 metric tons. This is for 110,000 metric tons or 14 percent lower than last year when the production of soybeans was record high of almost 800,000 MT.

c) EXPORTS: Serbia does not export GE crops. Serbia is only exporting non-GE crops (mostly corn and soybeans). For the last six years, Serbian soybean exporters have been able to secure official certificates from Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) that the "Law on GEOs" banning all commercial growing, trade, and transit of GE varieties in Serbia has been implemented. With this official confirmation, exporters have been able to secure a premium for their non-GE crops and be more competitive internationally. Several Serbian crushing facilities have long-term contracts with EU buyers to export non-GE soybeans and products. In 2020, MAFWM offered 4,000 dinars per hectare (USD 40 per hectare) of subsidies as direct payments for certified seeds and fertilizers to Serbian grain and oilseeds farmers. During MY2019/20, Serbia's soybean exports is estimated at 115,000 metric tons, almost the same as last year (120,000 metric tons). This is all non-GE soybeans and products. Serbia mostly exports soybeans and products to EU countries such as Hungary, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, and Romania. For the last several years, there has been increased demand for Serbian non-GE soybeans from Japan and South Korea.

d) IMPORTS**:** In MY2020/21 Serbia imported 5,000 metric tons of non-GMO soybeans. Serbia only imports non-GE soybeans when the crop is not sufficient for domestic use. Imports of GE crops are not allowed. In MY2018/19, Serbia imported over 100,000 metric tons due to drought and low production. Prior to the adoption of the current "Law on GEOs" in 2009, Serbia imported soybean meal which contained approved Round-Up Ready soybeans. Imported quantities in 2009 reached 70,000-100,000 metric tons annually, valued at USD 40-60 million.

e) FOOD AID: Serbia is not a food aid recipient country, nor does it provide food aid for other countries.

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[1] Marketing Year is September 1 through August 31.

f) TRADE BARRIERS: The current "Law on GEOs" adopted in 2009 is a major trade barrier as it strictly prohibits all imports, production, and commercial growing of GE crops or products containing GE traits. The ban does not provide any mechanism for future products to be reviewed, as there is no transparent science-based risk assessment/approval process.

PART B: POLICY

a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: The Serbian Parliament adopted the current "Law on GEOs" in May 2009. This law, which was published in the Official Gazette No.41/2009, went into effect on June 12, 2009 and it completely banned all trade and commercial cultivation of biotech products. The ban was adopted without a risk assessment being done based on a scientific review as required by the WTO, and the law does not provide any mechanism for future products to be reviewed as there is no transparent science-based risk assessment/approval process.

Reportedly, since 2010, the MAFWM has drafted several versions of a revised "Law on GEOs" that incorporates U.S. and EU suggestions to make it more WTO compliant. The latest version of revised "Law on GEOs" was prepared in May 2018 but has never been submitted through an approval process. The new draft law includes the creation of a mechanism for a risk assessment of applications to import or grow GE crops their products. It will establish the general framework for regulating biotechnology in Serbia. Additionally, there are ten new by-laws covering a variety of topics (see below). There will also be changes in terminology to the four existing by-laws (Rulebooks) that were adopted in 2002. These Rulebooks are still in effect, although some of the provisions are not in use under the 2009 law but will become active again once the law is amended.

The following are the Rulebooks that are still valid:

• Rulebook on "Contained use of genetically modified organisms," No.1244/1 issued November 13, 2002;

• Rulebook on "Regulation on the content and data of products derived from GEOs," No. 1669/1 issued December 15, 2002 (will be amended with new terminology after adoption of the new Law on GEOs);

• Rulebook on "Commercial release of 'GEOs' or products derived from same," No.1245/1 issued November 13, 2002 (not used due to the current Law on GEOs);

• Rulebook on "Deliberate release of biotech products into the environment," No.1246/1 issued November 13, 2002 (will be amended with the new terminology after adoption of the new Law on GEOs).

The newest version of the revised law is reviewed and approved by the Serbia's 18-member National Biosafety Council. The final version of the law needs to be approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Serbian Government and adopted by the National

Parliament. MAFWM is at the same time drafting a number of necessary by-laws in accordance to the EU regulation. Once adopted, the MAFWM, is planning to implement the following ten by-laws:

• Regulation on the use of GEOs in closed systems;

• Regulation on deliberate release of GEOs into the environment;

• Regulation on the placing on the market of GEOs and products of GEOs;

• Regulation on labeling and traceability of GEOs and products of GEOs;

• Regulation on the content and data of the Register of GEOs and products of GEOs;

• Regulation on authorized laboratories;

• Regulation on confidential information;

• Regulation on the handling, packaging and transport of GEOs and GE products;

• Regulation on trans-border movement of GEOs and products of GEOs;

• Regulation on sampling of GEOs and products of GEOs;

The MAFWM is the competent authority responsible for all GE issues in Serbia. The Ministry deals with all contained use of "GEOs" and is the focal point for the Cartagena Protocol, Biosafety Clearing House, plant varieties registration and protection, genetic resources, and accreditation of laboratories. The Agriculture Ministry is also responsible for appointing members to the Biosafety Expert Council. Members are appointed for the period of five years. In 2017, the Biosafety Expert Council extended the terms of all current members to 2022.

In April 2017, the Serbian MAFWM, established a new Food Safety Risk Assessment Expert Council. The main coordinator of this council is a special adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. The Food Safety Council consists of 15 members, from scientists, representatives of consumer associations, representatives of academia, and the MAFWM. According to the Serbian Minister of Agriculture, this Food Safety Risk Assessment Expert Council will also be involved in the future process of amending and adopting the current "Law on GEOs."

The MAFWM supervises the application of the "Law on GEOs" and its subsequent regulations through a national inspectorate. It manages all phytosanitary inspectorates and quality control of food and feed production. It also is responsible for financing research projects in the fields of agriculture and the protection of plant genetic resources.

While there is no mechanism to approve GE crops for import or cultivation, there is a framework for doing research work. The current law regulates only conditions for contained use, research activities, and field trials of biotech products under the strict control of the state. There is a strict and detailed

application process for obtaining a permit for GE research. The application must provide all the necessary data on the biotech event or biotech crop and stipulate parameters for safety procedures and measures. All applications must be submitted to the MAFWM for review and approval. Risk assessments are evaluated by the Biosafety Expert Council, which is composed of representatives from scientific research institutions in the fields of agriculture, ecological, and biological science. The applicant must submit any renewal requests to the MAFWM six months prior to the expiry[2] of the original approval. Even with this possibility, no one is currently conducting any biotech research in Serbia.

b) APPROVALS: There are no GE products approved for import or for cultivation and there are no applications for research.

c) STACKED OR PYRAMIDED EVENT APPROVALS: There is no mechanism for approving stacked or pyramided events or products. Furthermore, it is expected that with amendments to the current "Law on GEOs," each GE event would have to be approved individually.

d) FIELD TESTING: Currently there are no GE field trials being conducted. The application for field-testing must be submitted to MAFWM for review and approval. Risk assessments are evaluated by the Biosafety Expert Council. The application must provide all the necessary data on the biotech event or biotech crop and stipulate the safety procedure parameters and measures.

e) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: Serbia has not determined the regulatory status of innovative biotechnologies (such as genome editing) in plants or plant products. Through amending the current restrictive "Law on GEOs," Serbia will most probably cover this topic with a separate Rulebook.

f) COEXISTENCE: Serbia does not have a coexistence policy; it has a strict ban on planting GE crops. However, a coexistence policy is incorporated into amendments that are being considered to the current "Law on GEOs."

g) LABELLING AND TRACEABILITY: Under the current "Law on GEOs," labeling and traceability are not defined. Once the law is amended, the MAFWM plans to adopt a separate regulation on the labeling and traceability of GEOs and products of GEOs, per EU regulations.

h) MONITORING AND TESTING: The responsibility for monitoring and testing of GE food, feed, and seeds falls under MAFWM, as defined by the "Law on GEOs." Serbia's phytosanitary inspectors are instructed to carry out surveillance of possible unauthorized imports of GE crops or products at the border and the internal inspectors from the MAFWM control what is planted in the fields. The phytosanitary inspectors use "Reveal for CP4" test strips to test for Roundup Ready™ soybeans and apply herbicides to small test areas in soybean fields to determine if any illegal GE soybeans have been planted.

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[2] Products are approved for five years, upon which the renewal is required.

Annually, the Serbian Phytosanitary Inspectorate of the MAFWM Plant Protection Directorate inspects approximately 1,500-2,000 (about 50 hectares) of soybean plots for the presence of GE plants. The Phytosanitary Inspectorate inspects approximately 300 soybean fields each year and of those samples detects between 50-70 fields as GE. The largest number of GE soybean plots were located in parts of Mačva, South Bačka and Srem (Vojvodina). The GE soybeans are always destroyed or removed from the field and the farmers were fined according to the current "Law on GEOs" with 30,000-50,000 dinars (USD 300-500), while companies are fined with charges of 500,000 to 3 million dinars (USD 5,000-30,000) for deliberate release into the environment without obtaining approval.

Every imported shipment of corn and soybean is inspected by the phytosanitary inspection for the presence of GE products. Depending of the size of the domestic Serbian crop, imports of these crops may be needed (like in 2018, when Serbia imported over 100,000 metric tons). Any imported corn or soy must be non-GMO. If Border Phytosanitary Inspectorate detect that shipment is GE it cannot be imported but returned or destroyed at the expense of the importer.

The MAFWM works with the following four accredited laboratories for the testing of "GEOs":

SP Laboratory
Address: Industrijska Zona bb, Becej
Phone: +381 21 453 191
Web page: www.victoriagroup.rs (in Serbian)

Laboratory for Seed Testing
Address: 30 Maksima Gorkog, Novi Sad
Phone: +381 21 421 248
Web page: www.nsseme.com (in Serbian)

A Bio Tech Lab
Address: Vojvode Putnika bb, Sremska Kamenica
Phone: + 381 21 489 3661
Web page: http://www.abiotechlab.rs (in Serbian)

Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetics Engineering
Address: Vojvode Stepe 444a, Belgrade
Phone: +381 11 3975 744
Fax: + 381 11 3975808
Web page: http://www.imgge.bg.ac.rs (in Serbian)

i) LOW LEVEL PRESENCE (LLP) POLICY: According to the Serbian "Law on GEOs" adopted in 2009 agriculture products of non-animal origin are not considered "GEOs" if the presence of "GEOs" fall under the 0.9% threshold of "GEOs" and impurities of "GEOs." Seed and reproductive material are not considered "GEOs" if they contain up to 0.1% threshold of genetically engineered organisms and impurities of "GEOs."

j) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: N/A

k) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): Although Serbia is not yet a WTO member, the legal regime for IPR protection has improved substantially in recent years as Serbia has revised laws to meet the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) standards. The TRIPS Agreement is a multilateral WTO Agreement and, as such, applicable to all 147 members of the WTO. It is also binding for every country that accedes to the WTO. The agreement's general obligations require countries to apply the principles of national treatment (same treatment of foreign title holders and domestic title holders) and most favored nation treatment (same treatment of foreign title holders regardless of their country of origin). TRIPS set minimum standards of protection with respect to all forms of intellectual property: copyright, trademarks and service marks, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents, layout designs of integrated circuits, and trade secrets. IPR in Serbia are treated in a series of laws, as follows: The Law on Copyright and Related Rights (2009), The Law on Patents (2004), The Law on Trademarks (2009) and the Law on Geographical Indications (2010).

l) CARTAGENA PROTOCOL RATIFICATION: Serbia is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ratified in 2002, and ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety https://bch.cbd.int/protocol in 2006. According to Serbia's obligations under the protocol, it must create a Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) consisting of a national database keeping record of all biotech trials, production, and trade activities in the country for all Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

m) INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND FORUMS: Serbia is currently a member of CODEX Alimentarius, the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the International Union for the Protection of the new Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Cooperative Program for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR), and is a signatory of the Aarhus Convention and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Serbia often speaks out about genetic engineering at international forums but with negative connotation.

Serbia is trying to accede to the European Union. According to the 2019 European Commission report on Serbia's progress in the EU accession process, it was stated that Serbia had limited progress in the area of Chapter 30: External relations. The EU has a common trade and commercial policy towards third countries, based on multilateral and bilateral agreements and autonomous measures. Some progress was made in the external relation during the reporting period, but the capacity to pursue key challenges in trade policy needs to be strengthened further. European Commission is suggesting to Serbia that in the coming year, Serbia should complete its World Trade

Organization (WTO) accession by adopting an amended law on genetically modified organisms and complete remaining bilateral market access negotiations and strengthen administrative capacity in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications for dealing with trade with the EU, CEFTA and WTO accession. Serbia will not be able to become a full EU member before changing current GE law that does not conform to EU regulations or the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement.

n) RELATED ISSUES: The current "Law on GEOs" adopted in 2009 is a major trade barrier as it strictly prohibits all imports, production, and commercial growing of GE crops or products containing GEOs. The ban was adopted without a risk assessment being done based on scientific review as required by the WTO and the law does not provide any mechanism for future products to be reviewed, as there is no transparent science-based risk assessment/approval process.

PART C: MARKETING

a) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OPINIONS: Serbian politicians and the general public remain misinformed about GE products and view them as potentially dangerous. Public opinion is generally negative towards biotechnology as there have not been any systematic attempts by the government to educate consumers. The media consistently choose to reinforce negative perceptions rather than report on technological advances. The issue has proven to be too politically charged, so much so that even politicians in favor of innovation do not take a public stance. Grain farmer and trader organizations are not united on the issue, as there is both an import and export interest involved. Serbian researchers are well educated and are not anti-agricultural biotechnology but are not active in passing these messages to the general public. Serbian livestock and poultry farmers know that with the adoption of the 2009 "Law on GEOs," Serbia blocked all GE soybean meal imports for animal feed resulting in a significant increase in feed prices. Livestock producers are eager to buy EU approved GE soybean meal from Argentina, Brazil or the United States to reduce input costs. However, Serbian consumers continue to reject biotechnology publicly in the erroneous belief that domestic production is effectively "organic and natural."

A significant number of city mayors in Serbia have adopted a "Declaration on 'GEOs'" and designated their territories as GE-free. During recent years, several civil society groups have sponsored anti-GE crop campaigns. The number of public events and the level of media coverage on the agricultural biotechnology issue have increased until 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemia and the health issues that the whole country was facing in 2020, there were less anti-GE campaigns than previous years. But even during 2020, several anti-GE were published in the Serbian prominent newspapers. As a result, GE products remain extremely unpopular in Serbia, and it is this angle that is typically covered by the press. Several political organizations on the extremes of the political spectrum have also taken up the GE issue, hoping to use it to fuel anti-EU and anti-U.S. sentiments. Both the Green Party and right-wing groups are vocal opponents. Additionally, as members of the National Parliament, these groups are against the lifting the current ban on products from agricultural biotechnology.

Serbia is officially supporting the Danube Soya Association. The Danube Soya Association http://www.donausoja.org/en-en is an international non-profit association based in Vienna, Austria. This association was founded in 2012 and its main members are farmers, agricultural traders, feed companies, major retailers, honorary members, food and feed processors/producers/distributors/retailors, institutes, laboratories, universities, and green organizations. The association's intention is to promote sustained non-GE soybean cultivation in Europe. It opened a representational office in Serbia http://www.donausoja.org/en/about-us/the-association/team-and-offices/office-serbia and is active in organizing different events. The purpose of the activities in Serbia is to promote the production of non-GE varieties of soybeans to the Serbian Farmers Associations and to encourage production in accordance with the "GE Free" standards.

Due to COVID-19, there were no workshops or conferences on topic of biotechnology in Serbia during 2020. Last conferences on this topic in Serbia was organized in May 2019 when the National Convention on the EU (an EU funded non-governmental organization), organized a Workshop on agriculture chapters 11, 12 and 13 of the EU acquis with the topic "Regulating production and trade of GEs in Serbia." The main message from this workshop was that current "Law on GEOs" in Serbia does not function and it must be changed and harmonized with the international standards. It was also discussed that media and general public must be provided with better information and that media should base its reporting on credible information obtained from reliable sources.

b) MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND STUDIES: Serbian agricultural experts believe that Serbia's competitive advantage depends on seeking a premium for high quality "natural" or "organic" products rather than competing on volume. Thus, there is a concern about the potential market consequences of adopting pro-agricultural biotechnology policies. Additionally, there is a strong bias against GE products as being "unnatural." Over the past several years, the profile of the issue has been raised and it is now a topic for debate amongst politicians, scientists, farmers, and industry representatives as well as the media. Generally, there appears to be a negative attitude towards the acceptance of GE crops in most social media outlets, although consumer awareness of GE products and public discussion of biotechnology related issues are limited. The MAFWM is keen to promote Serbia's non-GE and organic production and has done little to dispel any misinformation about agricultural biotechnology and EU approved GE events.

FAS Belgrade is not aware of any market studies regarding the acceptance of GE imports or GE production.

CHAPTER 2: ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART D: PRODUCTION AND TRADE

a) PRODUCTION DEVELOPMENT: According to the Serbian MAFWM, no applications have been submitted to conduct research for producing GE animals or cloned animals.

b) COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION: There are no livestock clones or GE animals (including fish, birds, insects, mammals) or GE genetics being used in commercial production in Serbia.

c) EXPORTS: Not applicable as Serbia does not produce GE animals, livestock clones, or products from these animals, including genetics (semen and embryos).

d) IMPORTS: It is unknown whether genetic material produced with modern biotechnology techniques is being imported. It is also unknown whether products from offspring of cloned animals are being imported.

e) TRADE BARRIERS: No country-specific legislation.

PART E: POLICY

a) REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: There are no laws or regulations covering animal biotechnology nor do they appear to be envisioned in the amendments to the "Law on GEOs" that is currently being considered. The institutions listed under Plant Biotechnology have the same responsibilities relating to Animal Biotechnology.

b) APPROVALS: There are no approvals of GE animals for use or import.

c) INNOVATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGIES: Currently Serbia has no regulation that addresses innovative biotechnologies in animals.

d) LABELING AND TRACEABILITY: There are no regulations in Serbia on the traceability and labeling of livestock clones, GE animals and their products (including genetics), and/or their offspring.

e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR): Serbia currently has no legislation that would address intellectual property rights for animal biotechnologies. Please see Plant Biotechnology Chapter for other details.

f) ADDITIONAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: N/A

g) INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND FORUMS: Serbia is a member of Codex Alimentarius (Codex) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Serbia is not discussing any GE animals and their products on expert forums.

h) RELATED ISSUES: N/A

PART F: MARKETING

a) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OPINIONS: Generally unfavorable. The Serbian public is not provided with even basic information on this topic.

b) MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND STUDIES: With current public perceptions about biotechnology, it is likely that animal biotechnology would have a difficult time with market acceptance. FAS Belgrade is not aware of any market studies regarding the acceptance of GE animals.

CHAPTER 3: MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

PART G: Production and Trade

a) Commercial Production: There is no information available for the use of microbial biotechnology in commercial applications.

b) Export: There is no information available for the use of microbial biotechnology in products that may be exported.

c) Imports: Serbia applies legislation that is banning imports to all GE products including biotech microbial. The only microbial biotech-derived food ingredients imported by Serbia are those traditionally used in the production of alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products. Likewise, Serbia imports alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products which may contain microbial biotech-derived food ingredients.

d) Trade barriers: Beyond current Serbia legislation, no additional trade barriers are known.

PART H: Policy

a) Regulatory Framework: The Serbian Parliament adopted the current "Law on GEOs" in 2009. This law completely banned all trade and commercial cultivation of biotech products including products of microbial biotechnology. Once Serbia changes its current restrictive GMO Law as an EU accession country, it will most likely adopt the EU legislation on biotechnology. There is no plan to adopt additional regulatory frameworks covering microbial biotechnology.

b) Approvals: Microbial biotechnology-derived product approvals are treated the same as GE products in Serbia and there is no approval for their use.

c) Labeling and Traceability: There are no regulations in Serbia on the microbial biotechnology.

d) Monitoring and Testing: Microbial biotechnology-derived product or biotech microbial monitoring and testing are not regulated in Serbia.

e) Additional Regulatory Requirements: Beyond "Law on GEOs" Serbia does not have in place any additional regulatory framework for microbial biotechnology.

f) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR): Serbia has legislation on intellectual property rights but does not have IPR legislation specifically on microbial biotechnology nor is that kind of legislation currently being considered.

g) Related Issues: There is no information available on other issues related to this topic.

PART I: Marketing

a) Public/Private Opinions: There are active organizations that lobby against the genetic engineering and Serbia's press historically has not been favorable to these types of innovations.

b) Market Acceptance/Studies: Currently, there are no known market studies on microbial biotechnology. The initial reaction to the discussion on these products is unlikely to be favorable. It seems that Serbians are not widely aware that food ingredients are derived from microbial biotechnology and used commonly globally, including in Europe.

APPENDIX 1: RELEVANT REFERENCES

Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
Nemanjina 22-26,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 260 7960
E-mail: info@minpolj.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/ (in Serbian)

Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection
Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2,
11070 Belgrade,
Phone: ++381 11 311 0271
E-mail: info@ekologija.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.ekologija.gov.rs (in Serbian)

Serbian Ministry of Health
Nemanjina 22-26,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 3616 596
E-mail: kabinet@zdravlje.gov.rs
Web page: www.zdravlje.gov.rs (in Serbian)

Serbian Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2,
11070 New Belgrade
Phone: ++ 381 11 311 3432
E-mail: kabinet@mtt.gov.rs
Web page: www.mtt.gov.rs (in Serbian)

Ministry for Education, Science and Technological Development
Nemanjina 24,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 361 3 734
E-mail: kabinet@mpn.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.mpn.gov.rs (in Serbian)

GMO approvals and registrations
Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
1, Omladinskih Brigada St.
11070 New Belgrade, Serbia
Contact person: Mrs. Vanja Kojic
Phone: ++ 381 11 311 7591
E-mail: Vanja.Kojic@minpolj.gov.rs

Serbian Environmental Protection Agency
Ruze Jovanovica 27a,
11160 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 2861080
E-mail: office@sepa.gov.rs
Web page: http://www.sepa.gov.rs/ (in Serbian)

Consumer Protection Reporter/APOS
E-mail: apos@apos.org.rs
Web page: http://apos.rs/#about-us (in Serbian)

National Association for Consumer Protection
E-mail: pravnitim@nops.org.rs
Web page: http://www.nops.org.rs (in Serbian)

Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetics Engineering
Vojvode Stepe 444a

11001 Belgrade, Serbia
Phone: ++ 381 11 3975 744
Web page: http://www.imgge.bg.ac.rs (in Serbian)

For further information on this report, please contact the following office in Belgrade:

Foreign Agricultural Service Belgrade
U.S. Embassy, Serbia
Bulevar kneza Aleksandra Karadjordjevica 92, Belgrade
Phone: +381 11 706 4158
E-mail: AgBelgrade@fas.usda.gov
Web page: https://rs.usembassy.gov/embassy/belgrade/sections-offices/foreign-agricultural-service

Attachments:

No Attachments