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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 crops. The law does not conform to European Union (EU) regulations or the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. To become a member of the EU and the WTO, Serbia needs to amend the current law. It would also create a mechanism for biotech crops and products to be reviewed by the government for import consideration and cultivation. Serbia prepared an amended “Law on GEOs” in 2018, but this law was never submitted to the national approval process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After more than 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 importing, producing, or commercially growing 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. 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 to the national approval process. There are no livestock clones or other GE animals (including fish, birds, insects, mammals) or GE genetics used in Serbia commercial production.

Since adopting the restrictive law, Serbia has been considering potential amendments to make the law WTO-compliant. Namely, it would create a mechanism 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 with the adoption of 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 making any changes to the current law. Until 2022, over 150 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. Founded in 2012, the Danube Soya Association (Dona Soja) <https://www.donausoja.org/> is a European, multi-stakeholder, non-profit membership organization with particular emphasis on sustainable European non-GMO soya production. Dona Soja is based in Vienna, Austria, with regional offices in Serbia, Ukraine, and Moldova, with over 280 members from 25 countries, 866 certified partners, and 24 European governments included. The principal members are farmers, agricultural traders, feed companies, green organizations, and government authorities. The association promotes “European origin” and “GM-free status”, along with additional social, environmental, and economic aspects, assuring non-GMO, regional and sustainable soya.

In Serbia, there is a significant number of civil society groups that are sponsoring anti-GE crop campaigns. These anti-biotech public events and media coverage dealing with agricultural biotechnology have increased since 2010. Consequently, agricultural biotechnology remains highly unpopular in Serbia, and the press typically covers this angle. Several political organizations on the extremes of the political spectrum have also taken up 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. Also, many producers and processors of soya are against changing current GMO Law, protecting their profitable business of selling and exporting non-GMO soya and soya products with high premiums. There are no livestock clones or other GE animals (including fish, birds, insects, mammals) or GE genetics used in Serbia commercial production.

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CHAPTER 1: PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

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 governed by a strict application and monitoring process. Although no GE field trials are 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 in spring 2022 for non-GE soybeans in marketing year¹ (MY) 2022/23 was 235,000 hectares, about the same as in MY2020/21. Due to the drought last summer, soybean crops were in some parts of Serbia damaged, and in MY2022/23, it is estimated that Serbia will have an average yield of 2.8 metric tons per hectare. This is 22 percent higher than last year (when soybean yield was even more damaged by a record summer drought). The total production of non-GE soybeans for MY2022/23 can reach approximately 670,000 metric tons. This is 130,000 metric tons or 24 percent lower than last year when the production of soybeans was at a record low of 540,000 MT. During MY2021/22, the price of soybeans was steady between \$700 and \$770 per metric ton. In September 2022, the soybean price at the Novi Sad Commodity Exchange was 80 dinars/kg (\$720 per metric ton).
- c) **EXPORTS:** Serbia does not export GE crops. Serbia is only exporting non-GE crops (mainly corn and soybeans). Serbian soybean exporters can obtain official certificates from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM) that the "Law on GEOs" banned all commercial growing, trade, and transit of GE varieties in Serbia. With this official confirmation, exporters have secured a trade contracts premium for their non-GE crops and have been more competitive internationally. Several Serbian crushing facilities have long-term contracts with EU buyers to export non-GE soybeans and products. In 2022, MAFWM offered 4,000 dinars per hectare (\$36 per hectare) of subsidies as direct payments for certified seeds and fertilizers to Serbian grain and oilseeds farmers. During MY2021/22, Serbia's soybean exports are estimated at only 24,300 metric tons or, over 80 percent lower than in the previous year when Serbia exported 150,260 metric tons of soybeans. This is mostly a result of record low production in the MY2020/21, high export prices and, significant difficulties in the transport of commodities by river barges to the Port Constanza, Romania. Serbia mainly exports soybeans and products to EU countries like Hungary, Austria, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, and Romania. There has been an increased demand for Serbian non-GE soybeans from Japan and South Korea over the last several years.

¹ Marketing Year is September 1 through August 31.

- d) **IMPORTS:** In MY2021/22, Serbia imported record-high quantities of non-GMO soybeans, over 60,000 metric tons, or 96 percent higher than in the previous year. Serbia mostly imports non-GE soybeans when the domestic crop is not sufficient for local use. Imports of GE crops are not allowed. The last significant import of soybeans to Serbia was in MY2018/19 when Serbia imported 170,000 metric tons due to the extreme drought and low local production. Before adopting the current "Law on GEOs" in 2009, Serbia would usually import annually up to 100,000 metric tons of soybean meal that contained approved Round-Up Ready soybeans annually, valued at around \$60 million USD.
- e) **FOOD AID:** Serbia is not a food aid recipient country, nor does it provide food aid for other countries.
- f) **TRADE BARRIERS:** The current "Law on GEOs" adopted in 2009 is a significant trade barrier. 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, 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 based on a scientific review as required by the WTO. 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 the revised "Law on GEOs" was prepared in 2018 but has never been submitted through an approval process. The new draft law includes creating a mechanism for a risk assessment of applications to import or grow GE crops and their products. It will establish the general framework for regulating biotechnology in Serbia. Additionally, ten new by-laws are 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 the 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.

The latest version of the revised law from 2018 was reviewed and approved by 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 several necessary by-laws in accordance with the EU regulation.

The MAFWM is the competent authority responsible for all GE issues in Serbia. The Ministry deals with all contained use of "GEOs." It 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 five years. In 2017, the Biosafety Expert Council extended the terms of all current members to 2022.

In April of 2017 the Serbian MAFWM established a new Food Safety Risk Assessment Expert Council. The central coordinator of this council is a special adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management. The Food Safety Council consists of 15 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 applying the "Law on GEOs" and its subsequent regulations through a national inspectorate. It manages all phytosanitary inspectorates and quality control of food and feeds production. It is also responsible for financing research projects in 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 research. 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 rigorous 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 safety procedures and measures parameters. 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 agriculture, ecology, and biological science. The applicant must submit any renewal requests to the MAFWM six months before the expiry² of the original approval. Even with this possibility, no one is currently conducting any biotech research in Serbia.

Legal term (in Serbian)	Legal Term (in English)	Laws and Regulations where term is used	Legal Definition (in English)
Genetički modifikovani organizmi (GMO)	Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)	"Law on GEOs" adopted in May 2009, published in the Official Gazette No.41/2009.	Genetically modified organism definition is an organism whose genetic material has been modified through methods of modern biotechnology.

Source: FAS Office Belgrade

- b) **APPROVALS:** There are no GE products approved for import or cultivation and no research applications.
- 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, no GE field trials are being conducted. The application for field testing must be submitted to MAFWM for review and approval. The Biosafety Expert Council evaluates risk assessments. The application must provide all the necessary data on the biotech event or 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. By amending the current restrictive "Law on GEOs," Serbia will 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 considered to the current "Law on GEOs."

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

- 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 GE food, feed, and seeds falls under MAFWM, as defined by the "Law on GEOs." Serbia's phytosanitary inspectors are instructed to monitor possible unauthorized imports of GE crops or products at the border. 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.

Annually, the Serbian Phytosanitary Inspectorate of the MAFWM Plant Protection Directorate inspects approximately 1,500-2,000 soybean plots (about 60 hectares) for the presence of GE plants. The Phytosanitary Inspectorate inspects around 300 soybean fields each year and of those samples detects between 50-70 hectares as GE. The most significant GE soybean plots are in West Serbia. When detected by the phytosanitary inspection, GE soybeans are permanently destroyed or removed from the field, and the farmers fined according to the current "Law on GEOs" with 30,000-50,000 dinars (\$270-\$455), while companies are fined with charges ranging from 500,000 to 3 million dinars (\$4,500-\$27,300) for deliberate release into the environment without obtaining approval.

The Phytosanitary Inspectorate inspects every imported shipment of corn and soybean for the presence of GE products. Any imported corn or soy must be non-GMO. If the Phytosanitary Inspectorate detects that the shipment is GE, it cannot be imported and is returned or destroyed at the importer's expense.

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

SP Laboratory

Address: Industrijska Zona bb, Becej

Phone: +381 21 6811 603

Web page: <https://www.splaboratorija.rs>

Laboratory for Seed Testing

Address: 30 Maksima Gorkog, Novi Sad

Phone: +381 21 4898 100

Web page: www.nsseme.com

A Bio Tech Lab

Address: Vojvode Putnika bb, Sremska Kamenica

Phone: + 381 21 489 3661

Web page: <http://www.abiotechlab.rs>

Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetics Engineering

Address: Vojvode Stepe 444a, Belgrade

Phone: +381 11 3975 744

Web page: <http://www.imgge.bg.ac.rs>

- 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" falls under the 0.9% threshold. Seed and reproductive material are not considered "GEOs" if they contain up to 0.1% threshold of genetically engineered organisms.

- 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 170 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 titleholders and domestic title holders) and most favored nation treatment (same treatment of foreign title holders regardless of their country of origin). TRIPS set minimum protection standards concerning 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 is treated in a series of laws, as follows: The Law on Copyright and Related Rights, The Law on Patents, The Law on Trademarks, and the Law on Geographical Indications.

- 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 a record of all biotech trials, production, and trade activities 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). Serbian scientists often speak out about innovative biotechnologies at international forums positively.

Serbia is trying to accede to the European Union. According to the Annual Progress Report of the European Commission for Serbia, Chapter 30 (External relations), it was stated that Serbia is yet to meet the opening benchmarks that include finalizing the accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). In this regard, Serbia should adopt a WTO-compliant law on the trade of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as a matter of urgency.

- n) **RELATED ISSUES:** The current "Law on GEOs" adopted in 2009 is a significant trade barrier. It strictly prohibits all imports, production, and commercial growth 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 public mostly 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 too politically charged; 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."

Many 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 media coverage on the agricultural biotechnology issue has increased over last several years. GE products remain extremely unpopular in Serbia, and the press typically covers this angle. 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 lifting the current ban on products from agricultural biotechnology.

Serbia officially supports the Danube Soya Association. The Association opened a representative office in 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 encourage production following the "GE Free" standards.

Besides the Regional Virtual Workshop on Innovative Biotechnologies and Regulatory Approaches organized by the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) in June 2021 and 2022, which also included Serbia, there were no other workshops or conferences on the topic of biotechnology during the past several years. The last conference 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 GE in Serbia." The main message from this workshop was that the 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 the general public must be provided with better information. The media should base its reporting on credible information obtained from reliable sources.

- b) **MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND STUDIES:** Serbian agricultural experts believe 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. It is now a topic for debate amongst politicians, scientists, farmers, industry representatives, and the media. Generally, there appears to be a negative attitude towards the acceptance of GE crops in most social media outlets. However, 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 research 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 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 the 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: Serbia has no regulations on the traceability and labeling of livestock clones, GE animals, their products (including genetics), and 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 or their products in 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, animal biotechnology would likely have difficulty 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 microbial biotechnology in products that may be exported.
- c) **Imports:** Serbia applies legislation that is banning imports to all GE products, including biotech microbes. The only microbial biotech-derived food ingredients imported by Serbia are those traditionally used to produce alcoholic beverages, dairy products, and processed products. Likewise, Serbia imports alcoholic drinks, dairy products, and processed products that 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 microbial biotechnology since trade of these products is banned.

- d) **Monitoring and Testing:** Microbial biotechnology-derived products 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 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. 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

Phone: +381 11 260 7960

E-mail: info@minpolj.gov.rs

Web page: <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/> (in Serbian only)

Serbian Ministry of Environmental Protection

Phone: +381 11 311 0271

E-mail: info@ekologija.gov.rs

Web page: <http://www.ekologija.gov.rs> (in Serbian only)

Serbian Ministry of Health

Phone: + 381 11 3616 596

E-mail: kabinet@zdravlje.gov.rs

Web page: www.zdravlje.gov.rs

Serbian Ministry of Trade, Tourism, and Telecommunications

Phone: +381 11 311 3432
E-mail: kabinet@mtt.gov.rs
Web page: www.mtt.gov.rs (in Serbian only)

Ministry for Education, Science, and Technological Development

Phone: +381 11 361 3 734
E-mail: kabinet@mpn.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.mpn.gov.rs> (in Serbian only)

GMO approvals and registrations

Contact person: Mrs. Vanja Kojic, Biotech Adviser
Phone: +381 11 311 7591
E-mail: Vanja.Kojic@minpolj.gov.rs

Serbian Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: +381 11 2861080
E-mail: office@sepa.gov.rs
Web page: <http://www.sepa.gov.rs/>

Consumer Protection Reporter/APOS

E-mail: apos@apos.org.rs
Web page: <http://apos.rs/#about-us> (in Serbian only)

National Association for Consumer Protection

E-mail: pravnitim@nops.org.rs
Web page: <http://www.nops.org.rs> (in Serbian only)

Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering

Phone: +381 11 3975 744
Web page: <http://www.imgge.bg.ac.rs>

Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic"

Phone: +381 11 20 78300
Web page: <https://www.ibiss.bg.ac.rs>

BioSens Institut Novi Sad

Web page : <https://biosens.rs/en>

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

Foreign Agricultural Service Belgrade

U.S. Embassy, Serbia
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E-mail: AgBelgrade@fas.usda.gov
Web page: <https://rs.usembassy.gov/business/>

Attachments:

No Attachments