



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



**Council Conclusions on
Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP/MOP 4) serving
as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
(Bonn, Germany, 12 to 16 May 2008)**

*2856th ENVIRONMENT Council meeting
Brussels, 3 March 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union,

1. WELCOMES the progress of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on **Liability and Redress**; and COMMITS itself to contributing constructively to the timely and successful completion of the group's work;
2. CALLS therefore for the adoption at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP/MOP 4) of a decision on international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms (LMOs). The decision taken should be in accordance with the detailed negotiating directives set out in the Council Decision on this issue;
3. ALSO CALLS for COP/MOP 4 to take necessary steps further to implement and to arrive at an effective international biosafety framework:
 - (a) by establishing possible ways forward for the appropriate implementation of **risk assessment and risk management** by all Parties and other governments, building upon the workshops organized in preparation for COP/MOP 4, in particular by indicating how and when available guidance and information documents may be used in the risk assessment process, and enabling Parties that so wish to acquire hands-on experience;

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- (b) by analysing experience gained with the use of **sampling and detection** for LMOs, further promoting access to knowledge about those techniques, and estimating the need for further harmonisation based on experience with international efforts;
 - (c) by promoting research on **socio-economic considerations** arising from the impact of LMOs on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in relation to indigenous and local communities. To be as effective as possible this research should avoid overlap, focus on knowledge gaps and create synergies between different research initiatives;
 - (d) by encouraging more active use of the **Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)** by all stakeholders as well as providing for the further development of the BCH, which is essential for the implementation of the Protocol, by promoting transparency and ready access to biosafety related information, in particular by identifying obstacles that hinder the adequate use of the BCH or the easy submission of information to the BCH and finding solutions;
 - (e) by agreeing a realistic **budget** consistent with the agreed functions, priorities and programme of work for the Protocol; and
 - (f) by ensuring an efficient and responsive **financial mechanism** to support capacity building projects at the national, regional and sub-regional level;
4. While renewing its commitment to supporting **capacity building** efforts, including in the long term, EMPHASISES the importance of taking forward work on capacity building, which is a prerequisite for the effective implementation of the Protocol and vital for its success.

