

**Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits**

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							

270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Policy and administrative measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety and Decision V/1. Work Plan of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

272. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) not a signatory	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) signed, ratification in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) instrument of ratification deposited	<input type="checkbox"/>

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

(general) Belgium, as a member state of the European Union, is bound by the European Directives with regard to contained use (219) and deliberate release (220).

(270) Together with the partnership activities developed through the Belgian Clearing-House Mechanism, the launch of the Belgian Biosafety Clearing-House could be a first step towards an effective participation of provider Parties.

(272) Belgium is actively participating in the work of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), as well as in the various intersessional activities, which are taking place in that framework.

For example, the Belgian government has provided the CBD Secretariat with an expert for the meeting of technical experts on the Biosafety Clearing-House which was held in Montreal from 11 to 13 September 2000.

Belgium is currently setting up administrative, financial and regulatory measures in order to fulfill its obligations and to prepare for an effective implementation of the Protocol.