



PRRI statement on the Biosafety Clearing House

Thank you Mme Chair,

I speak on behalf of Public Research and Regulation Initiative.

Mme Chair, as PRRI noted earlier, we are concerned that the Protocol is hardly being used for what it was primarily set out to do, and that is to give countries that do not yet have domestic regulations in place, a tool to make informed decisions about import of LMOs so that they can share the benefits of modern biotechnology.

Mme Chair, we believe that one of the reasons why the Protocol is only partially being used what it is intended for, is that one of the key tools of the Protocol, the Biosafety Clearing House, is not being used as it could.

What we see is that to a certain extent – but certainly not enough - information is entered in the BCH relevant to the implementation of the Protocol.

What we also see is that hardly any information is entered in the protocol to share scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with LMOs.

PRRI believes that it is a serious deficiency that the BCH contains very little scientific information about and experience with LMOs, despite the fact that after many years of testing and growing GM crops on an enormous scale, significant benefits to farmers and the environment have been documented and there have been no verifiable reports of adverse effects on human health or biodiversity.

Thank you Mme Chair