

Letter sent October 11, 2002:

On behalf of the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA), we wish to comment on the proposed ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. We were unable to participate in the September consultations however; I have participated in numerous Biosafety negotiations including numerous meeting with the Canadian delegation to the negotiations.

The CSTA Board of Directors considered the status of negotiations and the potential impact on international trade of seed and grain and in July 2002 passed a resolution that Canada should defer ratification.

We support the objective of the Protocol, to provide assurances that Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) are traded in a safe and responsible manner with due regard to the protection of biodiversity.

It is key that the Canadian government keep the decision on ratification under review while continuing to participate in the Protocol process as a non-Party and acting in a manner that is consistent with the Protocol.