

Technical Table before meeting
the EU Member of the Commission for Agriculture and Rural Development
and to define a working program for year 2005

Middle Italy Regions' Offices - Brussels
April 6th 2005

MAIN OUTCOME

- Objective:** A) to prepare the meeting with the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mrs. Mariann Fischer Boel; reflections on the context emerging from the Commission's Communication on GMO;
- B) to introduce, with open debate and reflection, the Network's working program (as proposed by the Tuscany Region).

Participants:

REGION	REPRESENTATIVES
AQUITAINE	Vincent LACARCE, Bérénice VINCENT
BRETAGNE	Renaud LAYADI, Damien PERISSE
BURGENLAND	Andrea KRAINER
DRAMA KAVALA XANTHI	Athanassios GOUMAS, Aspasia MELLIOU
EMILIA ROMAGNA	Daniele GOV, Cristina CREMASCHI
ENAE (Union d'Autorités de Préfecture de Grèce)	Athanassios GOUMAS
EUSKADI	Luis Javier TELLERIA, Aitor MINTEGUI
HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND	Sarah WEEKS
ILE DE FRANCE	Mathieu SIMON
KAERTEN	???
LAZIO	Alessandra BIANCHI, Giovanna SINATRA, Renata SANGIORGI
LIGURIA	Giulia IANNUCCI
LIMOUSIN	Claude TREMOUILLE, Pierre EDOUARD
MARCHE	Vincenzo CIMINO
MIDI PYRENEES	Alan FAUCONNIER, Yannick PROTO
OBERÖSTERREICH	Gerald LONAUER
POITOU CHARENTES	Stephan PEYORGUE
PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIA	Tomasa ARCE, Jose RODRIGUEZ
PROV. AUT. BOLZANO	Daniel SCHATZER
SALZBOURG	Peter STADLBAUER, Michaela PETZ
SARDEGNA	Tonello ABIS
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN	Thomas ENGELKE
STEIERMARK	Johannes SORGER
TOSCANA	Enrico FAVI, Renzo SPAGNESI, Orazio CELLINI, Fabio BOSCALERI, Riccardo RUSSU
UMBRIA	Ernesta RANIERI
WALES	Norma BARRY, Steve JACKSON, Andrew AGGETT

NETWORK OF THE GMO-FREE EUROPEAN REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Text:

The meeting starts at 15.15 p.m. and the Tuscany Region presides the works.

OPENING – Background to the meeting

Mr. Cellini, Tuscany Region's office of Brussels, open the works with a welcome to all participants and thanks every Region its co-operation (both from offices in Brussels and from central departments).

He introduces the meeting's agenda and briefly also the events that have lead to both technical meeting as well as the meeting with the EU Member of the Commission for the Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs. Mariann Fischer Boel, on the following day.

In particular, he underlines the effort done by the Tuscany Region and the Upper Austria Region, which have led to the presence of the 26 Regions that have signed the Florence Charter and of 4 further Regions, which are going to sing very soon. The number of involved regions into the Network is now then 30.

Mr. Cellini reminds also the context deriving from the recent Communication to the Commission on GMO. Such document is very important for the defined context, for the indications and, moreover, for the explicit acknowledgement of the GMO-free Network by the European Commission.

THE TUSCANY PROPOSAL

Mr. Spagnesi shows the Tuscany Region's proposal, which contains the Network's organisation, a working program for year 2005 and a possible option for the Network's financing.

Organisation of the Network

The creation of a coordination system has been proposed: the Tuscany Region could ensure the coordination and the organizational secretariat, whereas the other promoting region, namely the Upper Austria could act as vice-coordinator, with two years rotation criteria open to the other partner Regions.

The system would foresee a coordination committee composed by the coordinator, the vice-coordinator and every Region that leads a working group (as defined in the working program).

The others Regions shall also be engaged in those working groups, following their aptitudes and experiences. Each Region shall participate at least to one group and can participate also to more than one group.

Working program

The program, with the proposal of subdividing in working groups, is showed in the ANNEX 1. Such proposal is inspired to the Charter of Florence's engagement.

Network's financing

There have been showed two alternative ways to fund the Network's activities:

- a) the costs of the organizational secretariat (included the realization and management of the internet site) would be charged on the coordinator and the vice-coordinator, whereas the costs of various initiatives (in agreement with the coordinators) and the working groups' management costs would be charged on the leaders or promoters Regions.
- b) the Network could be funded by membership fee, which would be proportional to various parameters that distinguish the single Region (habitants, GDP, etc.).

NETWORK OF THE GMO-FREE EUROPEAN REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DEBATE

The discussion is opened with a table round (the following regions and local authorities express themselves in this order):

Liguria, Poitou-Charentes, Ile de France, Styria, Aquitaine, Bretagne, Salzburg, Wales, Burgenland, Provincia di Bolzano, Lazio, Principado de Asturias, Limousin, Midi-Pyrennes, Sardegna, Emilia-Romagne, Umbria, Marche, Drama-Kavala-Xanthi, ENAE (Union of Prefecture Authorities of Greece), Oberösterreich.

There is a global convergence on the proposal and every Region shares the principles presented by the Tuscany Region. At the same time, the representatives want to deepen it and, if it's necessary, send further suggestions or proposals.

Particularly two remarks are done:

- put together some themes [by Upper Austria and Marche (e.g. themes 4 and 7 of the program)];
- more details on theme 6, particularly adding formation and promotion (by Umbria).

Regarding the organizational structure of the Network, the Regions share the proposal asking more time to analyse it. Only one observation has been done (Sardegna): to substitute the coordination body with a restricted committee or a steering group.

About the financing, the majority of the Regions shares the necessity to define a first costs analysis of the Network activities. Furthermore, the opportunity to share the costs through a membership fee based on two sub-quotes has been shared:

- a fixed fee and,
- a variable fee (proportional to socio-economic parameters to be established).

Also the opportunity to find other funding sources from the EU Institutions is shared within the Network.

Regarding the applications to lead the working groups on the proposed themes, there is the following situation:

Theme	Candidature to lead the theme	Candidature to participate to the group
1	Aquitaine, Umbria	Wales, Bolzano, Emilia-Romagne
2	Limousin	(Midi Pyrennes ?), Drama-Kavala-Xanthi, Sardegna
3	Toscana	Wales, Limousin, Drama-Kavala-Xanthi
4	Umbria	Emilia-Romagna, Marche
5	???	(Midi Pyrennes ?)
6	Lazio	Emilia-Romagna, Sardegna
7	Umbria, Toscana	Ile de France, Styria, Lazio, Midi Pyrennes, Marche, Drama-Kavala-Xanthi
8	Bretagne	Bolzano, Emilia Romagna

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FINAL AGREEMENTS

- a) To allow a quick gather of every information useful to complete the works program and other proposals, it's been agreed that Regions and Local Authorities will send to the Tuscany Region their proposals or suggestions, as well as any other integration of the present record, within the April 29th 2005;
- b) Every Region must confirm within the April 29th 2005 its own application and assume either the coordination or the participation to one working group;
- c) It has been decided a new meeting of the Network to be held on May 18th 2005 in the Office of the Middle Italy Regions in Brussels, the day after the Conference of the AER in which the Network has been asked to participate.
- d) The Tuscany and Upper Austria Regions will predispose a first gross budget of the Network's activities.

The works end at 18.00 p.m.