

**NETWORK'S CONTRIBUTION
ON
COEXISTENCE BETWEEN GMO, AND CONVENTIONAL AND
ORGANIC AGRICULTURES**

Rennes, 30 November 2005

In order to ensure the coexistence between Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), and conventional and organic agricultures, as well on the Local and/or Regional level as on the National, European and International levels, the Network of the European Regions and Local Authorities which have signed Florence's Charter¹:

Considering that:

1. The protection of conventional and organic agricultures, including certified productions (PDO, PGI, TSG, etc.)², passes by the guarantee, on the Local and/or Regional level, of the absence of contamination by the GMO;
2. The sustainable development of agriculture passes, under the principles affirmed by the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and confirmed by the Protocol of Cartagena on the Prevention of the Biotechnological Risks (PRB) adopted in Montreal in January 2000, by preservation on the Local and/or Regional level of the natural and agricultural biodiversity;
3. The coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures, which is practicable only on the Local and/or Regional level, passes by the introduction of rules imposing, in the event of accidental or technically inevitable contamination, a tolerance threshold equivalent to the "technical zero".

¹ Florence's Charter on coexistence between GMO, conventional and organic agricultures

² Regulation (EEC) n°2081/92 of 14 July 1992 on Protection of Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin and Regulation (EEC) n°2082/92 of 14 July 1992 on Traditional Specialities Guaranteed for agricultural products and foodstuffs

Claims the right to:

- 1) Define areas where cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) plants and breeding of Genetically Modified (GM) animals will be forbidden³;
- 2) Modify, in agreement with the European Commission and in collaboration with Member States, the agro-alimentary products specifications protected and valorised by a sign of quality (PDO, PGI, TSG, etc.)⁴ by excluding GM plants and animals from their production process ;
- 3) Institute at the Local and/or Regional level, with the support of the European Commission, monitoring and control systems for the GM plants and animals based on available technologies (satellite observations, software of forecast, etc.)⁵;
- 4) Define the necessary prevention measures (buffer zones, safety distances, etc.) in order to avoid contamination of conventional and organic agricultures by GMO⁶;
- 5) Oblige the farmers who cultivate and/or breed GMO to inform, and to prove they have done it (by all the means at their disposal), their Local and/or Regional Authorities and their neighbours⁷;
- 6) Determine, at the Local and/or Regional level, with specific instruments (satellite observations, software of forecast, etc.), the areas subject to particular and/or exceptional climatic conditions of cyclic and/or periodic nature, and fix, in the zones thus determined, specific standards able to avoid any uncontrolled dissemination of GMO⁸;
- 7) Define, in order to preserve non-GM zones from contamination, a Local and/or Regional seeds' calendar⁹;

³ See point 1. of the Technical proposals

⁴ See point 1. of the Technical proposals

⁵ See point 2. of the Technical proposals

⁶ See point 2. of the Technical proposals

⁷ See point 3. of the Technical proposals

⁸ See point 4. of the Technical proposals

⁹ See point 5. of the Technical proposals

- 8) Institute, in order to preserve non-GM zones from contamination, specific trainings for farmers who want to cultivate GM plants and/or to breed GM animals and for workers involved in "GMO" production chain¹⁰;
- 9) Separate completely, by means of Local and/or Regional measures, "GMO" production chain from "non-GMO" production chain¹¹;
- 10) Oblige "GMO" farmers to hold and update, by means of farm registers making at disposal by competent authorities, a list of workers and an inventory of machines and other relevant technical equipments involved along the "GMO" production chain¹²;
- 11) Participate, with the European Commission, to the implementation of a traceability mechanism for the GM plants and animals in order to ensure the transparency of "GMO" process industry and thus to protect the "non-GMO" process industry¹³;
- 12) Institute, in case of contamination, of "non GMO" zones and/or agriculture's products by "GMO", a system of suitable sanctions and compensations based on the "polluter-pays" principle¹⁴;
- 13) Impose to the buyer of "GMO" farm or part of "GMO" farm to respect the same obligations of his seller¹⁵;
- 14) Make carry all the incurred costs, direct and indirect, required to ensure the coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures by the structures of "GMO" process industry¹⁶.

¹⁰ See point 6. of the Technical proposals

¹¹ See point 7. of the Technical proposals

¹² See point 7. of the Technical proposals

¹³ See point 8. of the Technical proposals

¹⁴ See point 9. of the Technical proposals

¹⁵ See point 10. of the Technical proposals

¹⁶ See point 11. of the Technical proposals

Ask to the European Institutions that:

- A. Regions and/or Local Authorities must be defined, taking into account 2.1.5 point of the Recommendation EC 556/2003, as the "appropriate scale" to implement coexistence, considering that:
- a) Coexistence rules are, taking into account the average size of European farm, inapplicable at farm level;
 - b) Regional and/or Local level is, taking into account its proximity, the relevant level of cooperation to implement, in agreement and in the transparency with the stakeholders on the territory, the coexistence as mentioned in the 2.1.1 point of the Recommendation EC 556/2003.
- B. Guidelines, elaborated at European level, define the implementation of "sustainable coexistence" at Local and/or Regional level, taking into account the following elements:
- a) Technical parameters necessary to preserve biodiversity;
 - b) Tolerance threshold, in case of contamination of non-GM agriculture (seeds, etc.) by GMO, equal to the "*technical zero*";
 - c) Transparency and traceability in the "GMO" production chain and "GMO" process industry;
 - d) Liabilities, sanctions and compensations, in case of contamination of non-GM zones and/or products by GMO, based on the "*polluter-pays*" principle;
 - e) Adequate sanction regime, in case of contamination;
 - f) Necessity to support impact studies and economic, technical and/or scientific follow-ups, of the coexistence between GMO, and conventional and organic agricultures.