

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21st 2007

Tuscany Representative Office in Brussels

Minutes

Final: 30/03/2007

Participants:

Name	Region
Aitor Mintegui Etxaleku	Euskadi (ES)
Athanassios Goumas	ENAE (GR)
Fabio Boscaleri	Toscana (IT) Notes
Gerald Lonauer	Oberösterreich (AT)
Ivana Stella	Umbria (IT)
Justin Amiot	Bretagne (FR)
Paola Simone	Umbria (IT)
Renaud Layadi	Bretagne (FR)
Roberto Pagni	Toscana (IT) Chair
Stefano Coronati	Lazio (IT)
Stephen Jackson	Wales (UK)
Vincent Lacarce	Aquitaine (FR)
Caterina Ronco	Piemonte (IT)
Luisa Ricci	Piemonte (IT)

14 participants from 10 Regions (full SC + Piemonte)

AGENDA

- A. 5th Network Conference: subject and contents; draft programme; invites
- B. Multilateral meeting with EU Commission services, 17-18 April 2007: update
- C. Final approval of 2006 activity report
- D. AOB.

Main outcomes

A. 5th Network Conference: subject and contents; draft programme; invites

The Steering Committee defined the general strategy for the Conference with the following consideration:

Primary target of the Conference will be the enlargement of the debate on possible strategies to face the upcoming CAP reform, starting with a GM-free strategy for local and regional high quality agri-food production.

Main themes will be:

- ✂ **coexistence**: possible way to recognize GMO-free areas with local legislation or agreements. During the Conference a presentation of new ideas to set up coexistence could be introduced, as well as the seed and organic GMO contamination threshold question;
- ✂ **feed and seed**: GMO-free production chain and information to consumers – toward the GM-free feeding-stuff Conference;
- ✂ **biodiversity**: the role of Regions in preserving biodiversity, starting from agricultural biodiversity and local seeds protection

The Conference will also be an occasion to build new alliances and consolidate the old ones.

The success of the Conference will be evaluated firstly on the number of political representatives attending from the membership of the Network. It's important to ensure good political participation.. For this reason a "save-the-date" document has been already distributed to the Network by Piemonte and Presidency on beginning of March ([ANNEX 1](#)).

The Presidency and Piemonte Region will propose a new letter to solicit the participation of political representatives from the partner Regions.

The second indicator of success could be related to the capacity to create the basis for new initiatives and partnerships. For this reason this Conference will include a specific session open to external contribution.

The Steering Committee reached agreement on a first draft Programme proposed by Tuscany and Piemonte ([ANNEX 2](#)).

A List of organisations and people to be invited has been drafted. It will be sent to every partner Regions in order to identify and contact every person that could add value to the Conference ([ANNEX 3](#)).

The Steering Committee decided to delegate Tuscany and Piemonte Region to produce a draft "input paper" to support the programme and the invitation.

The following activity plan has been established:

Object	Responsible	Deadline
Input paper + 2 nd Draft Programme	Presidency + Working Groups	1 April
Accommodation in Turin (List of Hotel)	Piemonte	1 April
Official programme and invitations	Presidency + Piemonte	18 April
List of persons to be invited	Steering Committee + Piemonte	18 April
Web pages of the Conference	Tuscany	18 April

Piemonte Region will prepare as soon as possible a list of Hotels in order to find good accommodation in Turin.

The Brussels' offices of the Steering Committee Regions will support (within their capabilities) Piemonte Region in contacting and inviting subjects from European Institutions. Preliminary contacts and invitations will be sent as soon as they are available.

The Wales representative explained that a political presence from Wales was unlikely given that elections would be held in early May.

B. Multilateral meeting with EU Commission services, 17-18 April 2007

The multilateral meeting aims to obtain and share information through a technical debate with representatives from different European Commission's services. Outcomes are expected to consist of

obtaining an update about the initiatives (in progress and future) of the different DGs and giving a good impression of our organization.

This occasion represents a great opportunity for the network as it is probably the first time that several Commission's Services are together to exchange information with a regional network.

In order to make the best impression on the Services, only a selected delegation of the steering committee will participate in the meeting (regional experts and technicians).

After the meeting, a general assembly will take place in order to share within the network all relevant information collected during the meeting.

A programme was drafted ([ANNEX 4](#)).

The Steering Committee decided to create a list of topics on which single Regions will prepare a short presentation with 2-3 questions to be submitted to the Commission's officers.

The topics were allocated according to the following **scheme** :

Commission service	Topic	Region in charge
DG AGRI	Coexistence – Mr. Leo Mayer	Aquitaine
	Research – Mr Leo Mayer	Lazio
	Organic farming – Mrs. Baillieux	Upper Austria
DG SANCO	Animal derived food and GMO labelling – Mrs. Schoboboda	Tuscany
DG ENV	Seeds contamination thresholds – Mrs. Rey Garcia	Umbria
	Revision of the legislative framework for the approval – Mrs Rey Garcia	ENAE
DG TRADE	Import of GM-free raw material – Mr. Ferriere	Bretagne
General Secretariat	Long term strategy on Biotech and GMOs – Mr. Mousnier	Bretagne, Tuscany, Wales

Responsibilities associated with each topic include preparing a presentation and contributing to the list of questions by April 2nd to allow time to circulate the questions within the Network before a final list of topics and related questions are sent to the Commission 1 week before the meeting (April 12th).

The Presidency will take care of standardizing the presentations after collecting them.

Euskadi, Upper Austria, ENAE and Bretagne do not need a translation service.

Tuscany will pay for IT-EN simultaneous translation.

Aquitaine could need FR-EN translation assistance and would pay for it.

The buffet could be paid for jointly by the Steering Committee. Other payment options are under evaluation.

Mr. Cellini and Mr. Amiot are in charge of the general organization of the event and of continuing the relationships with our interlocutors in preparation for the meeting.

C. Summary of 2006 activity

The Steering Committee approved the document “2006 activity report” ([ANNEX 5](#)).

D. Any Other Business

a. Network's website – Communication from Tuscany

A first draft of website is online at the following address: <http://88.56.223.100:8080/servlet/ae5Ogm>

A name for the website has been registered: www.gmofree-euregions.net

The SC is invited to check the website and to send possible contents and suggestions.

b. Name of the Network

The SC decided to select a final name for the Network. The final choice will be made during the next General Assembly on 18 April next.

Annexes:

- 1) Annex 1: 5th Conference's Save the Date
- 2) Annex 2: 5th Conference 1st draft Programme
- 3) Annex 3: List of possible people to be invited to the 5th Conference
- 4) Annex 4: Multilateral meeting draft programme
- 5) Annex 5: Report on 2006 Networks activity