

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

April 27th 2006

Tuscany Representative Office in Brussel

Minute

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Participant:

Name	Region
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Alessandra Bianchi	Lazio (IT)
Andrew Aggett	Wales (UK)
Athanassios Goumas	ENAE (GR)
Fabio Boscaleri	Toscana (IT)
Justin Amiot	Bretagne (FR)
Orazio Cellini	Toscana (IT)
Paola Simone	Umbria (IT)
Renaud Layadi	Bretagne (FR)
Roberto Pagni	Toscana (IT)
Vincent Lacarce	Aquitaine (FR)
Unai Sanchez	Euskadi (E)
Tot. 12part.	8 Regions

Main topics

Vienna Conference

The Network's participation to the Conference has been judged a good opportunity to test the effectiveness of our visibility in the European context.

The position of the Network has been recalled frequently in the main speech during the Conference.

It's possible to find every speech/presentation at the following link:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/events/vienna2006/index_en.htm

New Partnerships

It's necessary to continue the process of finding new allies and new partnership launched during the last months and consolidated in the Vienna Conference.

A first step will be the partnership with the Assembly of European Regions (AER).

The Network is going to propose to the AER some projects on which a cooperation could be carried out.

Regarding the contamination threshold in organic farming discussed at EU level, another possible partner will be the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - <http://www.ifoam.org/>).

The Presidency of the Network will look at other possible contacts (e.g. Association of European Protected Areas/Parks).

Name of Network, Logo and Web Site

Name

The name "REASON" (Regions Européennes pour une Agriculture sans Ogm – Network) at the moment is the first option. Tuscany Region will send another email to show the different options and collect other proposals or opinions from the members of the Network. During the next Plenary Assembly the final name/acronym will be decided (+/- next June).

Logo

No progress. It will be necessary to define a logo before the website is operational.

Web site

Tuscany presented a first draft structure of the Net's website (<http://servizi.rete.toscana.it/ogm-free/>). It's necessary to collect more information from the Members to implement the site with the basic documents. The final version of the web site will be registered as .eu dominium (e.g. www.reason.eu). In the Web site there is a reserved area to share information and working papers of the different working groups.

Future initiatives

A provisional agenda of the next Network's initiatives has been proposed.

1. First part of June 2006: Bruxelles, **technical meeting with DG ENV** and a new **Steering Committee meeting**. The meeting with DG ENV will be useful to pave the way to the meeting with the EU Commissioner for the Environment (Stavros Dimas). Other possible meetings with technical branches of the European Commission will be tested (e.g. DG SANCO and Barroso General Secretariat).
2. End of June 2006: Rome, meeting of 2 **working groups** (research and seeds) + **Steering Committee and General Assembly**.
3. May – October 2006: Committee of Regions, Lazio Region has been requested by the COR to draft an **opinion on the European Commission's "Report on coexistence in Europe"**. As soon as it will be available, Lazio will circulate it within the Steering Committee (and then within the General Assembly). The Opinion will be adopted in October 2006.
4. June 2006: Bruxelles, the **CoexNet** EU initiative probably will have a meeting in June. The Presidency of the Network will ask the EU Commissioner Fischer Boel for a place at this meeting. If this is accepted it will be necessary to send a high level technical representative.
5. October 2006: Bretagne and ENAE will start some contacts with MEPs to organize a **meeting with European Parliament** (Agriculture and Environment Commissions). It will be necessary to gather MEPs of different nationalities and political orientations.
6. October 2006: Bruxelles, **political meeting with EU Commissioner DIMAS**.
7. November 2006 (to be confirmed): **5th Conference of the Network** in Crete (Greece).
8. End of 2006: **Meeting with EFSA** (to be confirmed). There is a new chief executive of the EFSA: Catherine Geslain-Laneelle. She is a French woman. French Regions could make the first contact to test a possibility of a meeting with EFSA.

9. Spring 2007, Bruxelles: **Feedstuff Business Meeting** (under the “International agreements” working group’s activities – Bretagne). The Brittany Region will send an update after the summer.

Organization of the Network (see the annex draft paper)

The organisation of the Network has been discussed, particularly in relation to:

- 1) Role of the Assembly;
- 2) Role and composition of the Steering Committee;
- 3) Role and duration of the Presidency;
- 4) Types of Institutional adhesions;
- 5) Budget and Secretariat.

There are two main possibilities:

- to adopt a legal status with a budget (e.g. Association or similar);
- to keep the present informal system, with a more detailed definition of the different Bodies’ competences (by means of a written agreement and without a Budget).

In the **annex document** there is a first draft proposal of organization. This proposal is written as detailed as possible (you can find underlined (or in red) the text related to the budget issues or the part which need a choice between 2 or more options).

Now it’s necessary to reach a final agreement in the General Assembly. In this view it has been judged important

- a) to find a compromise that enables every present member to stay in the Network and,
- b) to filter new applicants, with particularly regard to the Institutional level of the members.

The next General Assembly will be asked to approve a more detailed framework in order to adopt a final organizational system.

Other issues

As a general tactic, it has been decide that, in order to define the medium term goals, it will be important to clarify the Network approach on **research programmes** considering the following aspects of GMOs:

1. Allergenicity;
2. Cross contamination (field-to-field);
3. Socio-economic impacts;
4. Reversibility (GM farm $\not\leftrightarrow$ Non-GM farm).

The objective of this practical approach is to find out technical material in order to ask the European Commission (or other European Institution) for specific resources to help the Network in defining the role of Regions in a “freedom of choice” perspective. The work of Network’s Working Groups will be fundamental.

1 annex:

Criteria for the Organization and Participation to the Network’s activity