

FINAL DECLARATION

after the 5th Conference of the Network

Following the proceedings of the Turin Conference, the **members** of the **GMO-free European Regions Network**, mindful of the principles and aspirations of the "Florence Charter" signed on February 4th 2005, re-affirming the objectives highlighted in the "Rennes Declaration" issued on November 30th 2005, **jointly assert** that:

- /// Europe-wide rules are required to allow regional and local authorities within the European Union to declare and maintain GMO-free territories;
- /// a moratorium on GMO cultivation is necessary to safeguard non-GM agriculture in the absence of transnational rules governing potential cross-border contamination or where coexistence is not possible because of specific situations at local and/or regional level;
- /// contamination of seeds and other propagating material by GMOs must be prevented to preserve natural and agricultural biodiversity;
- /// the international market in GMO-free agricultural commodities must be safeguarded to maintain a freedom of choice for farmers and consumers;
- /// coexistence rules and the decision making process must be supported by independent scientific research.

In support of the above assertions and subject to the means and institutional competences of its members, the GMO-free European Regions Network will **organise and promote activities** to:

1. elaborate coexistence guidelines and encourage the **creation of GMO-free areas** at a national, regional or local level;
2. call upon the European Commission to allow the "**Moratorium**" as an option;
3. call upon the European Commission to share the rationale, objectives and procedures regarding the "*on-line consultation*" on **seed labelling threshold** in an open and transparent way: this significant issue requires serious consultation and discussion;
4. create **GMO-free areas for seed production** and campaign for the lowest possible technical **GM contamination in seeds**;
5. invite the Commission to use Directive 2001/18/EC procedures exclusively to assess applications for cultivation instead of Regulation 2003/1829/EC;
6. support the **development** and the **consolidation** of GMO-free, conventional and organic production chains;
7. promote a **sustainable** and **fair** agriculture sector within Europe, and encourage responsible relationships with developing countries;
8. **safeguard** regional and local plant varieties and animal breeds and **improve** their commercial profile and value by specific regional measures;
9. develop, create and consolidate existing partnerships to present **research projects** under the EU 7th Framework Programme in line with Network's targets;
10. meet and inform the European Parliament's political groups about our position and common aims;
11. develop common initiatives with other regional networks, farmer and consumer organisations, the *International Commission on the Future of Food and Agriculture* and any other organisations sharing our views and objectives.

Turin, May 18th 2007