

VIENNA CONFERENCE

22/23 November 2010

FINAL DECLARATION

Following the proceedings of the Vienna Conference the 53 members of the GMO-free European Regions Network and after the Urbino Conference of 18/19 June 2009, We stand for safe and secure food and feed, high quality agricultural production and therefore we do believe in a GM-free farm, local and regional GM-free areas, GM-free production and a GM-free final product.

We again re-affirm the 4 guiding principles of our common initiative: Self-determination, polluter-pays and precautionary principles and freedom of choice.

Gathered in Vienna for the VIIIth annual conference of the Network, we have set out the Strategic Vision Paper stating the following:

- A re-evaluation of EFSA working processes and allocation of specific research budget;
- enlargement of the GMOs authorization process to socio-economic evaluation risk;
- a central role of Regions and local territories to correctly address the coexistence of GM crops with non GM ones;
- definition at Community level of the procedures leading to the acknowledgement of mandatory GMO free districts, based on voluntary agreements;
- the network intends to work on the development of a framework for a GM-free label that will be common in all EU countries;
- to develop non GM distribution channel and supply of animals feed and stimulate a non GM-protein production in Europe.

The Network of GM-free Regions welcomes 2 new members - Region de Bruxelles – Capitale / Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest and the Freistaat Thüringen - so we are now 53 Regions.

We clearly urge for clear decisions upon the EC proposal as regards the possibility for Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory, (COM 2010 – 375 final from 13.7.2010) by Council and European Parliament within the next months.

We demand to be a strong partner within this serious debate and also ask for a temporary moratorium on the authorisation of new GMOs by the EC, in order to guarantee an open and transparent debate, until a final decision is issued on the EC proposal by the European Institutions.

We urge the EC to include the support to GM-free areas and clusters in the CAP 2014-2020 quality policy implementation since they represent an added value to the agricultural quality policy.

Vienna, November 23rd 2010

Vienna Declaration text: www.gmofree-euregions.net