

Working Group on non GM-Agriculture

Input Paper (ver.1)

12.02.2009

WG Composition:

Toscana (IT) & Aquitaine (FR) (Coordinators), Abruzzo (IT), Canarias (ES), Marche (IT), Piemonte (IT), Tedkna (GR), Drama-Kavala-Xanthi (GR)

Premises

The topic addressed by the WG was defined during the 6th Conference of the Network in Bilbao in April 2008. Coordinators were identified during the Bilbao Conference. A first WG draft agenda was proposed during the Assembly in Turin on October 23rd 2008.

A first analysis of the main outcomes was done during the Steering Committee in Brussels on December 3rd 2008.

This document represents a further development in the work organization of the WG, following suggestions and instructions received during the WG meetings.

Main targets

- development of common technical provisions to address the coexistence issue in each Region;
- development of references to create GM-free areas (including voluntary agreements);
- definition of common political positions on the subjects addressed by the WG;
- individuation and development of cooperation projects.

What has been done

Meetings	Internal documents	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kick off meeting in Turin (23 October 2008) ● Meeting with EU French presidency (November 2008) ● 2nd WG meeting in Brussels (5 February 2009) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minute of the kick off meeting ● Input paper Ver.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network position on EU Council draft conclusions (5 December 2008) - link

AGENDA

1. 3rd WG meeting in Brussels on end of March 2009 (to be confirmed)
2. Seminar with EC services – end of April 2009 (to be confirmed)
3. Workshop in Florence (end of May 2009) (to be confirmed)
4. 7th Network Conference in Urbino (17-19 June 2009) (confirmed)
5. WG meeting in Brussels (last trimester of 2009)

TASKS

A) Recognition and analysis of existent coexistence legislations

A new report on coexistence in EU is expected from the EC Commission in March 2009. The WG will analyze such report and will integrate it with further technical info, covering particularly technical provision to allow gm-free zones.

This activity will lead the WG to set up a database whit different categories of adopted and proposed coexistence measures.

The WG will also collect some important data concerning the Network partners, such as: population, farmers, cropped surface, main crops, average farm size, protected areas, Natura 2000 sites, etc....

Data will be inserted in a database.

Coordinators will circulate a proposal of dataset to be collected among Network's partners by mid April 2009.

Deadline for task A is June 2009 (7th Network's Conference)

B) Selection of best solutions for creating GM-free areas;

Task B foresees the identification of best practices to constitute GM-free zones in our Regions.

Main challenges of this activity are:

- the definition of best practices, in line with European Legislation,
- the definition of a scheme of agreement for the setting up of GM-free zone on voluntary basis.

This task will need a coordination within the Network and outside the Network, mainly with European Commission and Member States.

A seminar on this subject will be organized at the end of April in Brussels.

Deadline for task B is June 2009 (7th Network's Conference).



C) Individuation of 1-2 good subjects for the development of cooperation projects.

Unfortunately the *Interreg IVC* programme doesn't have agriculture as a priority, so it won't be possible to continue with the REVERSE and the SAPID project if they are focused on agricultural matters (as they were in previous calls for proposals).

After the 2nd WG meeting, partner regions decided to focus on 2 main topics:

- “short production chain”, as a way to strengthen the economic profiles of regions sharing an interest in a specific economic sector, reinforcing the global competitiveness of the sector;
- “logistic aspects for improving local quality agriculture”, which could be focused on studying the weakness and the strength of the logistic and services linked with import needs of EU farmers (quality agriculture and commodities market). This could be intended as a way to support regional business clusters with specific needs (organic, gm-free, etc.).

Coordinators will send 2 project fiches as soon as they are available, as task C is not a priority.

A possible deadline to present project ideas is late 2009 during the network Assembly.