

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 4

December 2000

Editorial

This December 2000 Issue of the EurSafe Newsletter is the last issue in the current format. From 2001 onwards, the Newsletter will be published in both an electronic and a paper version. At the same time, the Newsletter will introduce new and hopefully more substantial sections. In order to improve the quality of these new sections, the editorial staff decided to divide the responsibility for the different sections among the editors of the Newsletter. Therefore, you are kindly invited to send all contributions to editor-in-charge:

- Special Announcements – Volkert Beekman (v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)
- EurSafe News – Volkert Beekman (vbeekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)
- Transatlantic Platform for Consumer Concerns and International Trade – Volkert Beekman (v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)
- Conferences & Courses – Volkert Beekman (v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)
- Institutes & Projects – Silke Schicktanz (silke.schicktanz@uni-tuebingen.de)
- Legislation & Policy – Dirk Lips (dirk.lips@agr.kuleuven.ac.be)
- Books & Journals – Kate Millar (kate.millar@nottingham.ac.uk)
- Web Sites – Volkert Beekman (v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)

Furthermore, we would like to announce the launch of the New EurSafe Website on January 12, 2001. The site will give up-to-date information on EurSafe's activities and Annual Congress. It is hoped that the website will not only be a useful web resource for members but also a gateway to the Society for those who are new to EurSafe and its activities. The website will now be run from the Centre for Applied Bioethics, University of Nottingham. The website address remains unchanged (i.e. <http://www.theo.uu.nl/Eursafe/>). If you have any comments or suggestions on what you would like to see included, please contact Kate Millar (kate.millar@nottingham.ac.uk).

Volkert Beekman, Berit Faber, Dirk Lips, Kate Millar, Erminio Monteleone, Silke Schicktanz

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~~~~~ **Second Announcement** ~~~~~

***Food Safety, Food Quality and Food Ethics***  
**(EurSafe 2001)**

**Third Congress of the**  
***European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics***

**Florence, Italy**  
**October 3-5, 2001**

**Aim**

The Third EurSafe Congress aims to enhance discussion and exchange of ideas on ethical issues in agriculture and food among academic and non-academic professionals in governmental and non-governmental organisations. Therefore, philosophers, scientists, regulators and others are kindly invited to attend EurSafe 2001. The Congress hopes to stimulate a well-informed and critical debate on such divergent issues as food quality, food safety and novel agri-food technologies.

**Call for Papers**

The Scientific and the Organizing Committees of EurSafe 2001 kindly invites submission of papers and posters on ethical aspects of the following subjects:

*1. Food Quality*

- Consumer perceptions of food quality
- Traditional (and local) foods
- Food quality standards and product certification
- Functional foods

*2. Food Safety*

- Food safety policy and legislation
- Risk analysis and risk management
- Consumer perceptions of food risk and consumer trust
- Novel and transgenic foods
- International safety standards

*3. Ethical methods*

- Frameworks for incorporating ethics into policy decisions
- Ethics in science and education
- Professional ethics
- Ethics Committees
- Consensus conferences and other forms of engaging the public

*4. Sustainable rural development*

- Alternative food production systems, such as conventional, organic, "agriculture raisonnée", and biotechnology
- Plant disease management
- Ethics in design and use of farm machinery: e.g. environmental and landscape implications, mechanisation in developing countries

*5. Animal welfare*

- Alternative stock-farming technologies
- Animal welfare evaluation
- Economic implications of higher animal welfare standards
- Animal breeding, including biotechnology applications

**Procedure for Submitting Abstracts of Papers or Posters:**

1. Abstracts of contributed papers or posters are due on April 20, 2001.
2. Indicate whether it is a paper or a poster.
3. Abstracts should be 350 words or less.
4. Keywords should be reported, preferably with reference to the list above.
5. Include name, full address, and e-mail address. Institutional affiliation should be indicated under the title.
6. Abstracts should be submitted, if possible, as a file attachment by electronic mail to: [francesca.clementi@popcsi.unian.it](mailto:francesca.clementi@popcsi.unian.it) but typewritten submissions are also welcome. They should be sent to: Prof. Francesca Clementi, Facoltà di Agraria, Università di Ancona, via Breccie Bianche, 60131, Ancona, Italy.
7. Authors will be notified of acceptance of abstract by e-mail before May 19, 2001.
8. Authors will be required to send the final draft of their papers or poster before August 15, 2001.
9. For additional information see: <http://www.georgofili.it>

**Important dates**

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 20, 2001    | Deadline for submission of abstract |
| May 19, 2001      | Authors notified of accepted papers |
| June, 2001        | Final Call with registration form   |
| August 15, 2001   | Final draft of papers due           |
| October 3-5, 2001 | EurSafe Congress                    |

**The Program Co-ordinator**

Prof. Claudio Peri,  
DISTAM, University of Milano  
Via Celoria 2, 20133 MILANO, Italy  
Tel ++ 39 02 70602063  
Fax ++ 39 02 70638625  
e-mail: [claudio.peri@unimi.it](mailto:claudio.peri@unimi.it)

**Congress logistics**

For information about travel, hotel, congress location and facilities, contact:  
Agenzia OS "Girovagare"  
Viale Milton 81-11r  
50129 FIRENZE  
tel. ++39.055.48 93 26  
fax ++39.055.47 63 93  
Email: [OS@mediahouse.it](mailto:OS@mediahouse.it)

~~~~~ **Special Announcement** ~~~~~

Special Issue Journal of Historical Sociology

The Journal of Historical Sociology is a peer reviewed journal published quarterly by Blackwell (Oxford, UK), and was founded in 1988 on the conviction that historical and social studies have a common subject-matter. Managing editors range across disciplines and are situated in San Diego, Oxford, Reading, and Alberta, Canada. We welcome articles that contribute to the historically grounded understanding of social and cultural phenomena, whatever their disciplinary provenance or theoretical standpoint. We are open as to topic, period, and place, and seek to be as international as possible in both the content and the authorship of articles. Alongside articles, we carry occasional essays on "Schools and Scholars" and of "Review and Commentary," and shorter pieces in our "Issues and Agendas" section which are designed deliberately to provoke.

We are inviting authors to submit papers dealing with food history, eating practices, table manners, agrarian history, dietary fads and nutrition, and other matters dealing with the production and partaking of food and drink. Past papers in our journal have raised questions about the nature of history, memory, nostalgia, art, technology and science, nationalisms, gender and ethnicity. Please write about food and drink so that it addresses one of these subjects or surprise us with an original and audacious project of your own.

A typical Journal of Historical Sociology article will contain little by way of extended literature review (which we are prone to edit out), will say something substantial and new about its empirical subject-matter, will be aware of the theoretical implications of its topic without turning into an abstruse discussion of pure theory, and will be of interest to readers beyond a specialist geographical or disciplinary audience.

Four copies of the manuscript should be sent to the responsible editors (address below). All contributions should be accompanied by an abstract of no more than 100 words, and a brief (up to five lines) biographical note including institutional affiliation. These should each be typed on separate sheets. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned.

Articles should normally be no longer than 10,000 words or 35 double-spaced standard North American letter size pages (8.5' x 11"); review essays or "issues and Agendas" pieces no more than 6,000 words. Longer submissions will be considered on their merits, but their chances of acceptance are much less.

The responsible editors are Derek Sayer and Yoke Sum Wong, Department of Sociology, 5 21 HM Tory Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H4. Our email address is jhsoc@ualberta.ca. For more information please contact Yoke Sum Wong at yswong@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca.

~~~~~ **Special Announcement** ~~~~~

**What Price Cheap Food?**

***A Meeting on the Subject of Prices Paid for Food by Consumers***

**25 – 26 June 2001, John McIntyre Centre, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh, UK**

**Theme**

This meeting will challenge the widespread assumption that cheaper food for consumers is unequivocally desirable. The title 'What price cheap food?' suggests that challenge from the outset. The proportion of income that people spend on food has declined for many years, and this decline is generally regarded as beneficial. However, it can also be argued that pressure for cheap food production has been a major factor in many negative developments: unreliable farm incomes, pressures on small-scale producers, reduced food security, concerns over food safety, loss of competitiveness for third-world producers, problems for animal welfare and environmental damage. Cheap food involves other 'prices' that are not reflected in the monetary cost. Pressure for cheap food is sometimes attributed to the consumers themselves, but it would be more accurate to say that in recent years it primarily results from competition between producers. There is a small proportion of consumers who would have genuine difficulty in paying more for food, but this is insufficient argument for providing cheap food for everyone: such people could be supported in other ways. Most people

could readily pay more for food. Indeed, most already pay more than necessary, some by buying 'free range' products and more by buying convenience foods. The meeting will concentrate on foods from animals and on the UK, on the grounds that we cannot do everything, but many of the issues clearly apply to crop production and worldwide.

### Approach

The meeting will bring together farmers, consumer representatives, supermarket managers, legislators, animal welfare groups, environmentalists and animal scientists to discuss these issues. In addition to plenary talks, workshops will be arranged to explore ways in which the issues can be taken forward - to consider the balance that may be achieved between legislation and quality assurance, between public education and public consultation, between developments within and outside the UK.

### Organization

The meeting is organized by the British Society for Animal Science in collaboration with the Scottish Centre for Animal Welfare Sciences. Contact [michael.appleby@ed.ac.uk](mailto:michael.appleby@ed.ac.uk). Further details will be available on the BSAS website (under Occasional Meetings) as they become available: [www.bsas.org.uk](http://www.bsas.org.uk).

## Conferences

### December 2000

**1 - 3 Dec**      ***6th Central and Eastern European Conference on International and Regional Co-operation for Safety in Biotechnology***

Organised by the Czech Ministry of Environment. More information:

[www.env.cz/env.nsf/pages/indexE](http://www.env.cz/env.nsf/pages/indexE)

**4 - 5 Dec**      ***Food Safety Objectives: Public Health, HACCP and Science***

Washington DC, USA. More information: [www.elsevier.nl/homepage/sag/fso/](http://www.elsevier.nl/homepage/sag/fso/)

|                  |                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7 - 9 Dec</b> | <b><i>26th Annual Acres U.S.A. Conference - Blueprint for Eco-Farming</i></b> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Radisson Hotel South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, Phone: (800) 355-5313, E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@acresusa.com">info@acresusa.com</a> , <a href="http://www.acresusa.com">http://www.acresusa.com</a> |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                    |                                                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>11 - 15 Dec</b> | <b><i>Biosafety Conference in Montpellier</i></b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                             |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | More information: Gill Lacroix, Biotechnology Co-ordinator, Friends of the Earth Europe, T. 32-2-542.0182, F. 32-2-537.5596 |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**17 - 20 Dec**      ***Functional Food, Nutrition and Health in the New Millennium. 8th World Congress on Clinical Nutrition***

Phitsanulok, Thailand. More information: [e-mail 8wccn@nu.ac.th](mailto:e-mail 8wccn@nu.ac.th)

### January - March 2001

|                 |                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4- 9 Jan</b> | <b><i>Science and religion: The new Imperative</i></b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                                                 |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | More information: The Science and religion Course Program, 2380 Ellsworth Street, Berkeley, USA; <a href="http://www.ctns.org">www.ctns.org</a> |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                    |                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>23 - 26 Jan</b> | <b><i>Consumer Health: A Challenge to the Food Industry</i></b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Organised by the International Food Science Centre A/S SAS Radisson Scandinavia, Aarhus, Denmark, Contact: Elisabeth Bisbo, phone: + 45-86-229686, fax: + 45-86-229996 |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

15 - 16 Feb

**Sustainability – Measurements**

Evangelische Akademie Tutzingen, Germany. More information: [www.ev-akademie-tutzingen.de](http://www.ev-akademie-tutzingen.de)

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21 Feb      | <b>Nutritional Effects of New Processing Technologies, Nutrition Society Winter Meeting</b>                                                                                                |
|             | Royal College of Physicians, London, England, Contact: The Nutrition Society: +44-20-7602-0228; fax +44-20-7602-1756; nutsoc.org.uk                                                        |
| 21 – 23 Feb | <b>Annual meeting of the Workgroup "Theory" of the German Association of Ecology</b>                                                                                                       |
|             | Freising, Germany; More information: Johannes Gnädinger, Prinz-Ludwig-Str. 20, 85354 Freising, Germany; E-mail: <a href="mailto:s.j.gnaedinger@t-online.de">s.j.gnaedinger@t-online.de</a> |
| 8 - 9 Mar   | <b>Education in Food Science and Technology for the 21st Century: Food Net Conference</b>                                                                                                  |
|             | Organised by ENSIA, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, Contact: Dr Michael Walters, phone +353-1706-7724; fax +353-1706-7724                                                      |

**April - June 2001**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 - 20 Apr | <b>International Symposium "Global Agriculture 2020: Which Way Forward?"</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
|             | John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK, Contact: +44 1603-450581 or 450641; E-mail: <a href="mailto:agric.2020@bbsrc.ac.uk">agric.2020@bbsrc.ac.uk</a> ; Website: <a href="http://www.jic.bbsrc.ac.uk/events/agric2020">www.jic.bbsrc.ac.uk/events/agric2020</a> |

22 - 27 Apr

**11th World Congress of Food Science and Technology**

Seoul, Korea. Deadline for abstract submissions is Sep 2000 More information: [www.congress2001.or.kr](http://www.congress2001.or.kr) or e-mail: [congress2001@seoul.kosfost.or.kr](mailto:congress2001@seoul.kosfost.or.kr)

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 - 16 May | <b>Food Allergens: Issues and Solutions for the Food Product Manufacturer</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|             | Hotel Sofitel O'Hare, Chicago, USA, Contact: Sue Phelan at FAARP phone: 404-252-3663 ext 252; fax 404-252-0774; E-mail <a href="mailto:sphelan@assnhq.com">sphelan@assnhq.com</a>                                                                          |
| 16 - 18 May | <b>IFIA Japan 2001: The Future of Food in the 21st Century</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|             | Toyko Int'l Exhibition Center, Tokyo, Japan, Contact : E.J. Krause & Associates, Inc at 301-493-5500; fax 301-493-5705, E-mail: <a href="mailto:hart@ejkrause.com">hart@ejkrause.com</a> ; Website: <a href="http://www.ejkrause.com">www.ejkrause.com</a> |

24 - 27 May

**Medicine and Conscience. Internal Congress of the IPPNW**

Erlangen, Germany. More information: Stefan Kolb, IPPNW, Fichtetr. 39 D-91054 Erlangen, phone +49-9131-816830, fax +49-9131-22339, e-mail: [medigew@aol.com](mailto:medigew@aol.com) <http://www.medizinundgewissen.de>

|                |                                                                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 May – 2 Jun | <b>18th Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference</b>                   |
|                | Beijing, China, <a href="http://www.wssc.org.cn">Http://www.wssc.org.cn</a> |

7 - 10 Jun

**Joint 2001 Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS)**

Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs Conference Center, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. More information: Helene Murray, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Minnesota, 411 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108-1013, phone: (612) 625-8235; fax: (612) 625-1268 or e-mail: [murra021@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:murra021@maroon.tc.umn.edu)

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10 - 12 Jun</b> | <b>Organic Grassland Farming</b>                                                                                                                                 |
|                    | Witzenhausen, Germany. Organised by the European Grassland Federation, <a href="http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/egf2001/">http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/egf2001/</a> |

## July - September 2001

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9 – 11 Jul</b> | <b>Nature and technology; University of Aberdeen, Scotland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                   | More information: <a href="http://www.spt.org">www.spt.org</a> ; or Andrew Light, SPTt Conference; Environmental Conservation education Program, 246 Greene Street, Suite 300; New York University, New York, USA; <a href="mailto:andrew.light@nyue.edu">andrew.light@nyue.edu</a> |
| <b>1 – 2 Aug</b>  | <b>Nature in Legend and Story (NILAS)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                   | First national meeting jointly held with the International Society of Anthrozoology and the International Society of Applied Ethology at the University of California, Davis; , more information: <a href="mailto:dswilson@ucdavis.edu">dswilson@ucdavis.edu</a>                    |

**13 - 15 Sep**      **9th International Conference on Human-Animal Interaction**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More information: [www.iahao.org](http://www.iahao.org)  
or e-mail: [rio2001@i-et-e.fr](mailto:rio2001@i-et-e.fr)

**Sep / Oct**      **Organic Meat and Milk Production from Ruminants**  
Joint BSAS and Hellenic Society of Animal Production Meeting, Athens, Greece  
The keynote papers will include: the future of the European Market for organic produce - opportunities and challenges; standards, regulations and legislation; animal health issues; human health: the quality and health implications for organic production; the impact of organic agriculture on socio-economic structures; the development of suitable farming systems and marketing and consumer awareness.  
More information, contact BSAS phone: 0131 445 4508, fax: 0131 535 3120  
or e-mail: [bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk](mailto:bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk)

## October - December 2001

**3 - 5 Oct**      **Food Safety, Food Quality and Food Ethics. The Third Congress of the European Society Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)**  
2001, Palazzo degli Affari, Italy, Florence. More information: Professor Claudio Peri  
Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture. University of Milan, Italy, phone + 39 2 70602063, fax + 39 2 70638625, e-mail: [claudio.peri@unimi.it](mailto:claudio.peri@unimi.it)  
Congress web site: [www.studioscaramuzzi.com/eursafeflorence2001](http://www.studioscaramuzzi.com/eursafeflorence2001)

## 2002

**4 - 8 Aug**      **4th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences**  
Boston Massachusetts, USA. More information, e-mail: [dpease@hsus.org](mailto:dpease@hsus.org)

## 2003

**5 - 12 Jul**      **Humankind/Nature Interaction: Past, Present and Future: XVth Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences**  
Florence, Italy. More information: [www.icaes-florence2003.com](http://www.icaes-florence2003.com), e-mail: [secretariat@icaes-florence2003.com](mailto:secretariat@icaes-florence2003.com), Prof B Chiarelli, Institute of Anthropology, University of Florence, phone +39-055-2398065; fax +39-055-283558

## Courses

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5 – 7 April 2001</b> | <b><i>Death without suffering</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                         | Advanced European bioethics course, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, fee: 261 EURO; more information: Norbert Steinkamp, Dept. of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine; University Medical Centre Nijmegen, PO Box 9101; 6500 Nijmegen, NL; email: n.steinkamp@efg.kun.nl |
|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                         | <b><i>Master's Specialization in Bioethics</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                         | McGill University- Biomedical ethics Unit, 3690 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3A1W9 Canada; www.biomedicalethicsunit.mcgill.ca; Application deadline is January 15th, 2001                                                                                              |

## Organisations

### ***The Association of German Insurers (AGI)***

AGI is currently developing a draft wording for the insurance of genetic engineering risks based on the General Terms and Conditions of Liability Insurance, which is strongly geared to the Environmental Impairment Liability Model published in 1993. The draft report could be downloaded at <http://www.ge-frankona-re.com/>, (click on 'publications', scroll down until link appears).

### ***ZEBET (Zentralstelle zur Erfassung und Bewertung von Ersatz- und Ergänzungsmethoden zum Tierversuch)***

ZEBET Germany supplies a free of charge databank of alternative methods of animal testing: <http://gripsdb.dimdi.de/germ/gui.html>) More Information: Dr. Barbara Grune, BgVV, Tel.: 01888 412 2271, E-Mail: grune.zebet@bgvv.dem, or DIMDI: Sylvia Herrmann, E-Mail: herrmann@dimdi.de

## Projects

### ***Exhibition in Zurich***

Shows how human attitudes towards animals are a complex mix of fear, reverence and need; at the Medical History Museum of the University of Zurich; Rämistrasse 69, Tel. 01 - 257 22 98; openings: Tuesday - Friday: 13pm- 18 pm; Saturday and Sunday: : 11am-17pm. Untill 31. march 2001; free entrance

## EU News

### THE FIFTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 1998-2002 QUALITY OF LIFE AND MANAGEMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES

On 15 November 2000, a Call for proposals for RTD actions under the specific programme Quality of life and management of living resources (1998 to 2002) has been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities (2000/C324/23). This call for proposals includes a targeted deadline for bioethics and socio-economics research closing on 28 February 2001. The budget dedicated for this deadline is 7M Euro. The following areas of bioethics research will be open:

12.1. Ethical aspects of scientific and technological developments

12.2. Ethical framework for life sciences

12.3. Public policies, law, human rights and bioethics

12.4. Bioethics infrastructures and methodologies.

For any further information specific you can contact the Quality of Life Info-desk (quality-of-life@cec.eu.int), visit the web site (<http://www.cordis.lu/life>) or contact the following people: Laurence Cordier (laurence.cordier@cec.eu.int), Maurizio Salvi (maurizio.salvi@cec.eu.int), Lieve Van Woensel (lieve.vanwoensel@cec.eu.int).

#### **12. Bioethics**

##### OBJECTIVES

This generic activity responds to ethical concerns arising out of rapid developments in the life sciences in the context of respect for fundamental human values. The recent publication of the draft sequence of the human genome and the foreseen implications for medicine and human health raise a number of bioethical issues. Research in bioethics will have the following main objectives: (i) to develop an ethical framework for research and to clarify the responsibilities of researchers, policy makers and economic actors; (ii) to contribute to a balanced dialogue between the public and the actors in the field, and an increased public awareness and consultation on ethical issues taking into account different sociocultural contexts; (iii) to help inform decision makers and citizens with regard to appropriate policy options, and to anticipate and address questions raised by scientific and technological developments, including those arising from this programme; (iv) to create and support pan-European networks of ethical expertise. Priorities are:

**12.1. Ethical aspects of scientific and technological developments**, notably: (i) the human genome, genetic testing and screening, testing for predisposition, and the human genetic diversity; (ii) germline gene modification; (iii) the use of human stem cells; (iv) in womb therapy; (v) xenotransplantation; (vi) the use of modern technologies and methods in plant and animal breeding; (vii) the use of information technology in medicine.

**12.2. Ethical framework for life sciences**, notably: (i) the involvement of human beings in research, in particular children, vulnerable groups and people in developing countries; (ii) the use of human cell tissues (including foetal tissues); (iii) the use of animals in research, in particular non-human primates; (iv) ethical conduct of research and issues linked with the dissemination of results.

**12.3. Public policies, law, human rights and bioethics**, notably: (i) bioethics in education systems and professional training; (ii) ethical aspects of consumer, environment, animal welfare and agriculture policies, including issues related to the Biodiversity Convention; (iii) research on links between bioethics and legislation (Community legislation, international treaties and declarations on bioethics, intellectual property rights, development of patent law and practice in the field of biotechnology and its impact on the protection of human rights, consequences of citizens' ethical concerns for international trade relations); (iv) protection of privacy and personal data, including genetic data.

**12.4. Bioethics infrastructures and methodologies**, notably: (i) comparative analysis of competencies and methodologies used by national, local and international ethics committees; (ii) networking of information infrastructures on legal and ethical data and associated methodologies; (iii) concepts of European and universal ethical standards and their relation with national and regional ethical values; (iv) bioethics and multiculturalism; (v) bioethics and the media.

## Publications & Journals

### ***Animal Cognition***

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg : quarterly published since 1998. Journal about animal ethology and cognition research

### **Carr, S. (ed.), *EU safety regulation of genetically-modified crops***

2000. Summary of ten-country study funded by DGXII under its Biotechnology Programme. Published by the Open University. For further details contact: Susan Carr/Mary McVay Biotechnology Policy Group, Centre for Technology Strategy, The Open University, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, UK, Tel: +44 1908 653672/652104, Fax: +44 1908 652175/654825, Email: [S.Carr@open.ac.uk](mailto:S.Carr@open.ac.uk) or [M.McVay@open.ac.uk](mailto:M.McVay@open.ac.uk)

### **Dusche, M., *Der Philosoph als Mediator Anwendungsbedingungen globaler Gerechtigkeit***

Vienna: Passagen Verlag 2000. ISBN: 3-85165-428-5. DM 58; A philosophical approach about the problem of international justice, esp. in the light of John Rawls theory of justice.

### **Eprecht, T., *Genetic engineering and liability insurance. The power of public perception.***

SwissRe, Zurich 1998 (Swiss Insurance policies and genetic engineering)  
<http://www.swissre.com/e/publications/publications/flyers1/genetic.html>

### **Eprecht, T., *Global Markets, Phantom Risks, and Globalised Losses: A Challenge for the Insurance Industry***

Swiss Political Science Review vol. 6/3 (2000)(forthcoming) <http://www.ib.ethz.ch/spsr/> (debates)

### ***Genetic Engineering Newsletter***

OEko-Institut e.V. Freiburg (Germany): is available on the Internet <http://www.biogene.org/e/e-index.html>; You can order it as e-mail (mail to [listserv@oeko.de](mailto:listserv@oeko.de), NO subject, text: subscribe gen-news-en@oeko.de).

### **Karafyllis, N.C., *Nachwachsende Rohstoffe - Technikbewertung zwischen den Leitbildern Wachstum und Nachhaltigkeit.***

Verlag Leske+Budrich, Opladen. 2000. DM 72,--

### **Keeling, L. & H. Gonyou (ed.), *Social Behaviour in Farm Animals***

2001. The chapters of this book fall into three broad subject areas: Concepts in social behaviour; Species specific chapters; current issues.

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#### **Introduction**

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[foodeth@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:foodeth@globalnet.co.uk), Website:<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~foodeth>

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## Newsletter

The Newsletter of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe) is published quarterly. The Spring Issue is published and mailed in March, the Summer Issue in June, the Fall Issue in September, and the Winter Issue in December. Requests for subscription and address changes should be sent to the EurSafe Secretariat ([EurSafe@theo.uu.nl](mailto:EurSafe@theo.uu.nl)). Items for inclusion in the March 2001 issue of the Newsletter should be sent to Volkert Beekman ([v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl](mailto:v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)) before March 1, 2000.

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