



# European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

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## *Newsletter* *Volume 5, No.4, December 2003*

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### **Remember to submit your paper for the 5<sup>th</sup> EurSafe Congress in Leuven, Belgium, 2-4 September 2004**

#### **Science, Ethics and Society**

On Thursday 2 September at 10.30 the Congress starts with the Opening lecture:  
**Moral conflicts in agricultural and food sciences**

The subsequent scientific programme is divided into four parts:

1. Ethics as a dimension of animal production and consumption
2. Ethics and sustainability: food production, environmental policies and future generations
3. Ethics, world food security and development
4. Ethics and the biobased economy of the twenty-first century: agriculture expanding into health, energy, chemicals and materials

Abstracts of contributed papers or posters are due on **February 15, 2004**

**More details on page 2.**

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# EURSAFE 2004

## Science, Ethics and Society

The 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics  
Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)  
**2-4 September 2004**

### **Remember**

Abstracts of contributed papers or posters are due on **February 15, 2004**.

For more information, please visit the EurSafe Congress website at <http://www.eursafe.org/2004> or <http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/cabme/>. Or see detailed call for papers in the EurSafe Newsletter No.3 2003.

### **The Scientific programme is divided into four parts:**

- 1) Ethics as a dimension of animal production and consumption
- 2) Ethics and sustainability: food production, environmental policies and future generations
- 3) Ethics, world food security and development
- 4) Ethics and the biobased economy of the twenty-first century: agriculture expanding into health, energy, chemicals and materials

### **Procedure for abstract submission**

1. Abstracts of contributed papers or posters are due on February 15, 2004 (abstracts should be 300 words or less). Abstracts (together with author identification) should be submitted to the secretariat through the website or by e-mail.
2. Authors will be notified of paper and poster acceptance by email before March 15, 2004. In case of acceptance by the Scientific committee, authors will receive instructions for preparing the full text of both oral communications and posters to be published in the Proceedings.
3. Authors will be required to send the final draft of their text of their papers (or posters) before June 15, 2004.

### **Conference secretariat**

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# Other Conferences & Courses

2004

- Feb 1-5**      *Technologies, Publics and Power (New Zealand)*  
The Terrain of the 6th Framework in New Zealand and Beyond. *Venue:* Akaroa.  
*More information:* <http://www.stsnetwork.canterbury.ac.nz/conferences.htm>
- Feb 8-11**      *Food Safety in a Dynamic World (The Netherlands)*  
84<sup>th</sup> European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. *Venue:*  
Zeist. *More information:* [www.eaae.org/activities/index\\_84th.htm](http://www.eaae.org/activities/index_84th.htm)
- Feb 12-14**      *Ecological Justice and Global Citizenship (Denmark)*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference organised by Inter-Disciplinary Net. Main themes: GM;  
Cooperative and Sustainable Development; Environmental Education and  
Intellectual Health; Citizenship, Technological Innovation and Sustainability.  
*Venue:* Copenhagen. *More information:* <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/ejgc/ejgc3/ejgc303cfp.htm>
- Feb 12-17**      *Modeling and Risk Assessment: Combating the Uncertainty of Policy Decisions (USA)*  
2004 Annual Meeting of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). *Venue:* Seattle, WA. *Full programme:*  
[http://www.eurekalert.org/aaasnewsroom/2004/2004\\_Expanded\\_Press\\_Program.pdf](http://www.eurekalert.org/aaasnewsroom/2004/2004_Expanded_Press_Program.pdf)
- Feb 23-25**      *Global Conference on Animal Welfare (France)*  
An OIE Initiative (International Office of Epizooties). *Venue:* Paris.  
*More information:* <http://animal-welfare.oie.int/home.htm>
- Mar 2-3**      *Genomics and Society (UK)*  
CESAgen – Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics – A Lancaster  
Cardiff Collaboration. *Venue:* The Royal Society, London. *More information:*  
<http://www.cesagen.lancs.ac.uk/events/conference.htm>
- Mar 20-27**      *European Course on Biotechnology Ethics - an interactive approach (Italy)*  
The Bio-T-Ethics consortium offers an innovative course on Ethical Issues in  
Biotechnology at the graduate level. It is aimed at Ph.D. students / young  
researchers of Life Sciences and Ethics and designed to provide, through a case-  
based approach, an interactive, interdisciplinary forum of discussion, covering  
the themes of ethical theory and practice, European law on biotechnology, risk  
and risk perception, social factors in technological development, and  
technological practice and politics. *Deadline for application:* 31 January 2004.  
*Venue:* Portofino. *More information:* [www.biotethics.org](http://www.biotethics.org)
- Apr 3-6**      *BioAlexandria 2004 (Egypt)*  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina. *Venue:* Alexandria. *More information:*  
<http://www.takingitglobal.org/opps/event.html?eventid=3369>

- Apr 4-7** *HGM2004, Human Genome Meeting (Germany)*  
HUGO. Venue: Berlin. More information: <http://hgm2004.hgu.mrc.ac.uk/>
- Apr 5-7** *BSAS Annual Meeting (UK)*  
British Society of Animal Science. Venue: York University. More information: [www.bsas.org.uk/meetings/annual.htm](http://www.bsas.org.uk/meetings/annual.htm)
- Apr 5-7** *Ecology without frontiers: environmental challenges across Europe (UK)*  
The British Ecological Society organises its annual symposium aiming to address ecological issues from a pan-European perspective, and integrate the role of policy and socio-economic drivers with ecological science. Venue: Exeter University. More information: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/articles/meetings/current/2004/annualsymposium/>
- Apr 12-15** *Global Ethics, Development, Environment and the Earth Charter (UK)*  
University of Aberdeen. Venue: Aberdeen. Contact person: Nigel Dower  
E-mail address: [n.dower@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:n.dower@abdn.ac.uk)
- Apr 18-20** *International Congress on Silvopastoralism and Sustainable Management (Spain)*  
The objective is to allow scientist and technicians to discuss the current and future perspectives silvopastoralism into a world context, in order to increase biodiversity and sustainability of forestland. Venue: Lugo. More information: <http://www.disweblines.com/congreso/ingles/programa.html>
- Apr 26-28** *The Food 21 Symposium: Towards Sustainable Production and Consumption (Sweden)*  
FOOD 21 is an interdisciplinary research programme dealing with issues of a sustainable food chain from production to consumption with emphasis on primary production. The aim of the symposium is to present and discuss research from FOOD 21, also in an international perspective. Venue: Uppsala. More information: <http://www-conference.slu.se/food2004>
- May 27-28** *6th International Conference on Chain and Network Management in Agribusiness and the Food Industry (The Netherlands)*  
Venue: Ede. More information: <http://www.sls.wau.nl/bk/congres/>
- Jun 10-13** *Joint 2004 Annual Meetings of the Association for the Study of Food and Society - ASFS - and the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society - AFHVS - (USA)*  
Venue: The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park (Hudson Valley), New York. Call for abstracts and proposals for sessions due 21 February 2004. More information: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhvs/NextMeeting.htm>
- Jun 12** *Cardiff Centre for Ethics, Law and Society, Annual Meeting (UK)*  
The meeting will offer parallel sessions on the following themes: Bioethics; Ethics & Society; Business & Professional Ethics. Venue: Cardiff. More information: <http://www.ccels.cardiff.ac.uk/meeting2004.html>

- Jun 12-13**     *Sustainable value creation in the food chain (Switzerland)*  
14<sup>th</sup> annual world food and agribusiness symposium. *Venue:* Montreux. *More information:* [www.ifama.org/conferences/2004Conference/2004CFP.pdf](http://www.ifama.org/conferences/2004Conference/2004CFP.pdf)
- Jul 17-19**     *Security bytes (UK)*  
Interdisciplinary Conference organised by Department of Politics and International Relations, Lancaster University. Main themes: Security and the Life Sciences; Zones of peace/zones of conflict; Hegemons, governance and resistance; Governing terror. *Venue:* Lancaster. *More information:* <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/politics/rsch/security%20bytes.htm>
- Aug 3-7**        *The 38th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology - ISAE (Finland)*  
The ISAE is the leading international society promoting research and education into the behaviour and welfare of farm, laboratory, companion and zoo animals. The main scientific topics of this year's meeting: Feeding and foraging behaviour; Environmental enrichment; Behaviour, health and production; Free papers. *Venue:* Helsinki. *More information:* <http://www.isae2004.org>
- Aug 25-28**    *Euroscience Open Forum (Sweden)*  
Highlighting Science, Technology & Innovation in Europe. *Venue:* Stockholm *More information:* <http://www.esof2004.org/>
- Aug 25-28**    *Genetics and Health Care (Iceland)*  
International ELSAGEN conference: Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects of Human Genetic Databases" held jointly with the XVIII European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care. *Venue:* Reykjavik *More information:* [www.elsagen.net/conference](http://www.elsagen.net/conference)
- Sep 2-4**        *EurSafe 2004: Science, Ethics and Society (Belgium)*  
5th EurSafe Congress. Call for abstracts due 15 February 2004. *Venue:* Leuven. *More information:* <http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/cabme/>
- Sep 8-11**      *Agriculture, Poverty, and Rural Development in a Globalizing World (Italy)*  
85th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. *Venue:* Florence. *More information:* [www.unifi.it/eaee/](http://www.unifi.it/eaee/)
- Sep 12-15**    *AgBiotech goes Europe (Germany)*  
ABIC (the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference) was set up in Canada in 1996 by the ABIC Foundation, and will now be held for the first time outside Canada. Scientists, industrial managers, investors and policy makers will come together for an intensive exchange of experience in order to give new momentum to further the development of agricultural biotechnology. *Venue:* Köln/Cologne. *More information:* <http://www.abic2004.org/>
- Oct 21-22**    *Farm income stabilisation: What role should public policies play? (Italy)*

86th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. *Venue:* Villa Orlandi, Capri. *More information:* <http://www.depa.unina.it/depa/eaeseinar.htm>

**Nov 9-12** *7th World Congress of Bioethics (Australia)*  
The International Association of Bioethics (IAB). *Venue:* University of New South Wales, Sydney. *More information:* [www.bioethicsworldcongress.com](http://www.bioethicsworldcongress.com)

## 2005

**Apr 21-23** *Assessing Rural Development Policies of the CAP (Austria)*  
87th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. *Venue:* Vienna. *More information:* <http://www.eaae.org/activities/indexa.htm>

**May 5-6** *Retailing and producer-retailer relationships in the food chains (France)*  
88th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Seminar. *Venue:* Paris. *More information:* <http://www.eaae.org/activities/indexa.htm>

## Books, Reports & Journals

### NEW BOOKS ETC. (2003)

**Campbell, B. M. and J. A. Sayer (eds.):**  
*Integrated Natural Resource Management. Linking Productivity, the Environment and Development.*  
Cambridge, MA: CABI Publishers, 2003.

**Gorke, Martin:**  
*The Death of our Planet's Species. A Challenge to Ecology and Ethics.*  
Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003.

**Karafyllis, Nicole C. (ed.):**  
**Biofakte - Versuch über den Menschen zwischen Artefakt und Lebewesen**  
(in German) Explaining the concepts of "The Technical" and "The Natural", and, most important, introducing the term "biofact" as a mixture between the two to the scientific debate.  
Paderborn: Mentis, 2003.

**Levinson, Ralph and Michael J. Reiss (eds.):**  
*Key Issues in Bioethics. A Guide for Teachers.*  
London: RoutledgeFalmer, 2003

**Ministeriet for videnskab, teknologi og udvikling:**  
*Genmodificerede og klonede dyr*

(in Danish with an English abstract) Recommendations of a preparatory committee appointed by the Danish government to establish rules for research in regard to animal cloning and accompanying technologies. October 2003. ISBN 87-91258-79-0.  
[www.vtu.dk](http://www.vtu.dk)

**Rollin, Bernard E.:**

*Farm and Animal Welfare. Social, Bioethical and Research Issues.*  
Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, paperback, 2003.

**Tickner, Joel A (ed.):**

*Precaution, Environmental Science, and Preventive Public Policy.*  
Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003.

**Vaarst, M., Roderick, S., Lund, V. and Lockeretz, W. (eds.):**

*Animal Health and Welfare in Organic Agriculture.*

Readership: Students, researchers and practitioners in animal science, behaviour and welfare, veterinary medicine and organic research.

448 pp., 2003. ISBN: 085199668X.

**Walgate, Robert:**

*Genetically modified food. The American experience.*

Summary of a conference organised by the Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment and the BioTIK Secretariat, Copenhagen 11-12 June 2003.

[www.bioethics.kvl.dk/eindex.htm](http://www.bioethics.kvl.dk/eindex.htm)

## NEW JOURNAL ISSUE

*Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics*, No. 6 2003 (vol. 16) is a special issue on Ethics as a Dimension of Agrifood Policy. It contains a selection of papers from the 4<sup>th</sup> EurSafe Congress in Toulouse (March 2003). Guest editors: Volkert Beekman and Humberto Rosa. The issue brings 3 papers about Functional Foods and 4 papers about Genetic Modification and Resources.

[www.kluweronline.nl](http://www.kluweronline.nl)

## BOOKS ETC. (earlier than 2003)

**Brouwer, F. and D. E. Ervi. (eds.):**

*Public Concerns, Environmental Standards and Agricultural Trade.*  
Oxford: CABI Publishing, 2002.

**Pence, Gregory:**

*Brave New Bioethics.*

Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002.

**Scully, Matthew:**

*Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*

St. Martin's Griffin, 464 pp., 2002; ISBN: 0-312-26147-0 (paperback, published 2003 - ISBN: 0-312-31973-8)

# Open forum

## Cloned and GM animals should be restricted to laboratories

*By Peter Sandøe\**

**Regulation of genetically modified (GM) crops has been debated for some time. Now, cloned and GM animals are on the political agenda in Denmark. The existing Danish regulation of biotechnology applied to animals addresses the concerns of the general public, provided the animals stay in research laboratories.**

The Danish regulation of biotechnology applied to animals contrasts interestingly with existing regulation regarding GM plants. First, usefulness to society can be considered when assessing animal experiments. Second, the use of GM animals for experiments is assessed just like the use of other forms of laboratory animals.

The Danish Act on Animal Experiments requires that experiments can be permitted only if they fulfil at least one of a number of specified aims. Primarily these aims concern securing human health or promoting research and education. An explicit criterion regarding usefulness was introduced at the latest major amendment of the act, hence it now states that the relevant authority may deny permission for an animal experiment if the experiment is not judged to be of substantial benefit.

The criterion of usefulness is one of the interesting points of contrast between the regulation of animal biotechnology and the regulation of GM plants. The latter requires of a specific plant only that it does not cause a risk to human health or to the environment. Hence, there is no requirement of benefits to society. In other words, this regulation does not contain any parallel

to the criterion of usefulness concerning animal experiment permissions. According to sociological studies, the lack of benefits seems to be a substantial reason behind the Danish general public's sceptical attitude towards GM crops. In this respect the regulation of animal experiments can be seen to meet the concerns of the public better than does the GM plant regulation.

### **Symmetric regulation**

The idea behind the regulatory parallel between the use of GM laboratory animals and other forms of animal experiments can be described in this way: The existing regulation is based on the reasoning that the use of biotechnology is a problem not substantially different from other experimental uses of animals. The crucial questions are about the benefits of the experiments weighted against negative effects on the animals' welfare. And these questions can be regarded equally whether the animals used are genetically modified or 'normal'. GM plants, however, are subject to a requirement of risk assessment which is not the case for plants produced by traditional breeding. One can conclude that the regulation of GM versus

'normal' laboratory animals is symmetric, while the regulation of GM versus traditionally bred plants is not symmetric.

This difference leads to a difference in the common view on the regulation among scientists working in the two areas. While scientists working with laboratory animals tend to regard the GM laboratory animals regulation positively and as being reasonable, plant breeding scientists commonly regard the GM plant regulation as awkward and unreasonable. In the debate about GM plants arguments are often heard from scientists and professional plant breeders that the risks to the environment or human health caused by 'traditionally bred' plants equal or exceed the risks caused by GM plants. Often mentioned are the so-called mutation breeding techniques, where mutations provoked through radiation or chemical substances form the base of further breeding. It is said that these genetic changes are less well understood and more unforeseeable than the changes resulting from DNA technology. Therefore, professionally involved people tend to find the thorough risk assessment requirement of GM plants unreasonable, as traditionally bred plants can be marketed without any risk assessment.

Contrary to this, there are reasons to believe that a symmetric regulation would not be embraced by the general public, because it is the use of biotechnology as such that causes substantial ethical concerns. With respect to this it might be wise to enter into deliberations about whether the ethical evaluation regarding the use of GM laboratory animals should include other concerns than those towards

human health, the environment and animal welfare.

### **More than non-suffering**

During the debate preceding the Danish Parliament's stance on animal cloning in spring 1997, an argument against allowing Danish researchers to clone animals was voiced by several participants. The argument was generally that cloning could impact upon the lives of the animals in a morally problematic way. At a hearing for two parliamentary committees the Danish philosopher Peter Kemp expressed the view that animal welfare is not a sufficient basis for the evaluation of biotechnology applied to animals. Peter Kemp held that it is not sufficient animals are well and neither suffer nor are being exposed to stress or frustrations. He made himself a spokesperson for deliberations subsequently having been summarised under the term 'integrity'.

But what more can matter from the perspective of the animals? If the animals are well, isn't all well? One example from traditional animal breeding may serve to substantiate that the answer is not necessarily yes. It is about breeding blind chickens to avoid feather-pecking and cannibalism in free-range production. This is an example from the real world, even though it has not yet been commercially developed.

It can be argued that the blind chickens do not have a welfare problem. They may even enjoy an enhanced welfare: They are able to find their feed and water and they show normal behaviour, and at the same time they avoid some of the serious welfare problems found elsewhere in free-range

production systems. Anyhow, many will obviously argue that the lives of the animals are reduced in an ethically problematic way, because we have taken away their ability to see. This is probably also the reason why commercial breeding companies have not found the blind chicken attractive.

Likewise, it can be argued that the lives of cloned and GM animals are reduced in an ethically problematic way, where the problematic element has to do neither with reduced animal welfare nor with any risk posed to humans.

### **What is integrity?**

Above I have only defined integrity in a negative way: It is something else and more than animal welfare as this word is normally understood. Considerable work is still pending on clarifying and discussing the content of the notion of integrity used as an ethical evaluation parameter concerning the use of biotechnology on animals. Here are just sketches of two possible paths to follow:

One way of thinking is focused on the individual. Violating integrity is something which poses a problem from the perspective of the individual animal. In fact this means that the notion of integrity serves to widen the notion of animal welfare. This can well make sense, particularly if the notion of animal welfare from the start is narrowly defined as absence of pain and other forms of suffering and possibly also to include pleasure and lust. Looking at our own lives, most will probably agree on the importance of avoiding pain and other suffering and that pleasure is a positive component of life. Few, however, will probably find that these components totally describe

what it is to have a good life. Likewise it can be argued that a good animal life is about something else and more, for instance that the animal possesses an extensive behavioural repertoire and that it is allowed to live through this repertoire.

The second way of thinking is oriented towards supraindividual entities. Here an instructive parallel to nature protection can be drawn. The aim of nature protection is not to protect individuals, but to protect larger entities such as species or ecosystems. When something happens to a single individual, it is only a problem if the individual in question belongs to a larger entity that is threatened or highly vulnerable. Likewise, GM animals could invoke substantial and harmful changes of the systems of which the relevant species are part. Regarding laboratory animals, however, these animals live in human-made systems, which normally do not interact with the outside animal world. Even the 'normal' animals in the laboratory world, like the white laboratory rats, must be classified as highly unnatural by all standards.

Therefore, it is only when leaving the laboratory and entering into the breeding of normal domesticated animals or to management of wild animals, integrity at the supraindividual level seems to be a relevant point. To both groups of animals, however, the problem seems not to be imminent. In our part of the world there is no serious work going on regarding cloned or GM animals for agricultural production or for release into wild nature. According to advice concerning a new Danish regulation in this field, given by a working group appointed by the minister of science, technology and

innovation, cloned and GM animals shall only be allowed in connection with animal experiments. So, in Denmark GM and cloned animals will most likely be confined to closed experimental laboratories in the foreseeable future.

The Danish conclusion that GM and cloned animals should neither be used in agricultural production nor be released into nature, is obviously connected to an emphasis on protecting the integrity of animals. In this respect

there seems to be coherence between ethics and a likely future regulation.

*\*Peter Sandøe is a professor of bioethics at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, and the chairman of the Danish Ethical Council for Animals.*

*This article was originally written in Danish and published in 'Gen-etik i praksis', newsletter of the Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment 4/2003.*

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## The EurSafe Newsletter

The Newsletter of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe) is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December. It is distributed electronically and also in a paper version to those who wish to receive it that way.

Requests for subscriptions and address changes should be sent to the EurSafe Secretariat [eursafe@theo.uu.nl](mailto:eursafe@theo.uu.nl). Items to

be included in the EurSafe Newsletter should be sent to the editor-in-chief, Geir Tveit, [get@kvl.dk](mailto:get@kvl.dk)

Deadlines for the 2004 issues are:

- No.1: 20 February
- No.2: 20 May
- No.3: 10 August
- No.4: 20 November

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# Application Form

## Membership of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

Family Name  
Given Name  
Title  
Organisation  
Address  
Country  
Phone Fax  
E-mail

### I would like to apply for membership:

- |                          |  |          |
|--------------------------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual membership  | Euro 25  |
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