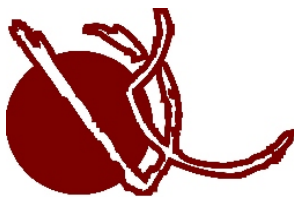


# EurSafe News

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics



**Volume 7, No. 4**  
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## EurSafe Congress

### Welcome to EurSafe 2006 in Oslo - Ethics and the Politics of Food

EurSAFE congresses are never “just like any other other conference”. They are special, and they are always treasured memories of those that participate. There are many reasons for that: the scope and variety of the papers that are presented for one – everyone will find something that is of interest; the multi-disciplinarity and variability of professional backgrounds of the participants – you will always find somebody for an interesting and engaging conversation; and, not to forget, the attractions of the various places where the conferences are held – you are almost certain to take home some lasting touristic impressions on top of the professional stimulus.

*by Matthias Kaiser*

We here in Oslo – and I now speak on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the next EurSafe congress – have made it our ambition to live up to this tradition and make the coming conference, the 6th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics, at least as memorable as the previous ones have been.

Before I go on, you better take note of the crucial information at once:

**EurSafe 2006 in Oslo  
June 22-24 2006**

**see:**

**<http://Eursafe2006.etikkom.no>**

What can you expect at the next EurSafe congress? Hopefully you will find all of the issues that you used to find at earlier EurSafe congresses and some new ones. Hopefully you will find an even broader scope of disciplinary backgrounds among participants, since we have made it our ambition to especially reach out to many new areas of the social sciences that deal with ethics, values and food. Hopefully you will find participants from countries that were not so strongly represented earlier, since we hope to reach a wide audience among the Nordic and Baltic countries. And hopefully you will find an even broader spectrum of topics that are discussed, since we have made it our goal to especially include ethical issues that deal with aquatic food products. After all, agriculture has an interesting counterpart in aquaculture, and I do not make a bold conjecture when I claim that ethical issues of aquatic food products are dramatically under-discussed! Last not least I think I can promise you an experience of Nordic hospitality: friendliness in an unconventional and relaxed setting, a sense of nature that resides deep in the hearts of our people, and an openness of minds that meets visitors with acute and sincere interest.

This was the appetizer and starter of our menu. Let me now introduce you to the main course, i.e. the main theme of the conference. Here is our official text:

#### **Ethics and the Politics of Food**

It is a paradox of the Western World that amidst of technological innovation, economic welfare and social change many people have developed a serious concern about our primary goods: food and food production. This topic mobilizes people from different backgrounds and cultures. It is the focal point of both high and low politics. On the one hand, there are lively disputes and conflicts about globalization of trade as witnessed for instance in the conflicts about the WTO-rounds or debates about food biotechnology. On the other hand, there is a very concrete level of consumer choice at the

shelf in the supermarket where value conflicts cannot easily be resolved. Yet, choice itself is often limited, through monopolising tendencies of corporate power.

At the same time we witness the traditional sectors of food production in a rapid phase of change in nearly every society. In times of globalization questions of micro- and macro-politics become intertwined, and only collective action seems to stand a chance of influencing the development. However, the disputes and political conflicts resist containment and assumed boundaries of the systems are moved only to be replaced by even wider considerations. What starts out as concerns about food risk and safety soon moves to ethics and cultural values. Ethics and cultural values are indeed a common denominator for peoples' concern about food and food production. Slogans like "from farm to fork", "vote with your fork", or "slow food" express a mingling of political, ethical and cultural values.

The challenge to ethics is to relate to these new societal contexts and provide useful concepts for analysis and understanding. The programme of the 6th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics is designed to capture these complexities in their variety through different thematic sub-sections and multi-disciplinary approaches.

Invited key-note speakers will include Michelle Micheletti and Vittorio Höfle. Other speakers (as yet unconfirmed) will address issues such as e.g. 'What is wrong with whale hunting?', and there will be a panel discussion on ethical issues of aquaculture.

#### **Call for Papers, Posters and Workshops**

That much said, what can be your part in the upcoming congress of EurSafe? First of all, you could decide to present a paper or a poster. In that case, make a note that you have to submit an **abstract before February 1, 2006**. We will be looking for papers that deal with ethical issues of food, but we apply a wide notion of ethics that essentially includes all systematic and empirical inquiries into value questions that underlie food production and consumption. Thus you certainly do not need to be a philosopher in order to contribute with your insights. Scientists, social scientists, and professionals of various sorts have important things to say on the theme of our congress. A list of suggested topics follows a bit further down. Secondly, you may want to propose a workshop on your

own. A workshop will occupy a certain section of the congress, focus on a specific theme, and consist of a small number of papers and / or a panel discussion or the like. The format of the workshop will be up to you. In that case, **note that the deadline for proposals of workshops has been extended until February 1, 2006.**

On the other hand, if you do not feel ready to present a paper of yourself or run a workshop, you may decide to simply participate. You may still have ample opportunities to learn from others, to question and discuss presented papers, and to network with people that in the next instance may become important collaborators, academic colleagues and friends. However you envisage your role in the upcoming EurSafe congress, we feel assured that you will benefit from it.

One more thing: EurSAFE is not restricted to high-level academics and professionals. We encourage especially doctoral students to participate and present their work. We solemnly believe that valuable intellectual innovation comes in particular from the younger generations, and we all hope to benefit from it.

**Be sure to make a note that the Early-bird registration, i.e. registration at a reduced congress fee, is before February 1, 2006.**

### Suggested topics

For those who contemplate to submit a paper, here is the preliminary list of suggested topics that will be covered:

- Sustainability in food production
- Politics of consumption
- Emerging technologies in food production
- Animal welfare and production
- Critical issues in aquatic production systems
- The toolbox for assessing ethical issues
- Foundational issues in philosophy / ethics
- Social conflicts over resource management
- Politics and power in the globalised food chain
- Politics, nutrition and food safety
- Ethics and safety in food discourses
- Who's responsible? Corporate responsibility and political governance in relation to food ethical issues
- Cultural values in food production
- Social distribution of responsibility for food ethical issues
- Trust in food
- Food, health and social inequality

More details on these suggested issues are to be found on our website. Look it up!

### What's for dessert?

Well, that was the main course of our upcoming congress. What's for dessert?

Midsummer Night in Norway! The timing of the congress coincides with the spectacular period of the year where the daylight is the longest and the nights are virtually absent. You may find it a trifle bit hard to sleep, but we can assure you it will not endanger your health. You may actually find it tremendously enjoyable, as the long days tend to be filled with more intensive experiences. You may find yourself discussing ethics and food issues long into the night. Of course, one thing I cannot promise you is sunshine and a clear sky, especially not in these times of climate changes and unpredictable weather conditions. An umbrella and a sweater may be wise to bring along in any case. But usually the weather is quite pleasant and fairly warm this time of the year. Personally, I think the weather hardly ever spoils the experiences of a Midsummer Night in Norway. Perhaps you should experience it yourself?

That was our menu on offer. The success of a congress always depends on those that eventually participate. That is why we count on your participation. Without you the EurSafe congress will be the poorer and we might miss out on important new insights. I hope I have encouraged you to seriously consider your participation and contribution. We in the Organizing Committee will do our utmost to make this congress an intellectually stimulating event and a lasting experience.

Welcome to EurSafe 2006 in Oslo, June 22-24, 2006!

Most cordially, Yours  
Matthias Kaiser

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## Election of EurSafe Executive Committee:

Dear Members,

The current members of the EurSafe executive committee have been chosen during the General Assembly in Toulouse on 22 March 2003. According to the statutes of EurSafe members are elected for 3 years. Therefore all members will resign during the Oslo congress. It is now time to take action in order to be able to vote for a new executive committee.

Article 8 of the statutes is relevant here. It reads:

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of at least four (4) persons. Appointments shall be made by the General Meeting from among the members. The number of Executive Committee members shall be determined by the General Meeting. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee may make a nomination, without prejudice to the authority of the General Meeting to appoint someone else.
2. Candidates for the Executive Committee may be nominated by the Executive Committee, as well as on the proposal of at least ten ordinary members.

The Executive Committee holds the opinion that EurSafe needs to aim for the new Executive Committee for a mix of continuity and renewal. We will propose at the Oslo congress an Executive Committee that will rotate half in every conference (every year and a half). It also holds the idea that of the core Executive Committee (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) half could rotate at one time.

The Executive Committee has mandated a selection committee of four members (Beekman, Brom, Kaiser and Sandøe) to propose a new Executive Committee to the next General Assembly. This Committee will work along the lines of the following four criteria:

1. Mix between continuity and renewal
2. Mix based upon geographic distribution
3. Mix between a) ethics, b) agro-food and environmental science and c) agro-food and environmental policy
4. Gender

The Selection Committee invites the members of EurSafe to bring possible candidates under their attention. We strongly urge people who are willing to devote their time and energy to our society to inform the selection committee. Please contact the secretary of EurSafe at: [Frans.Brom@wur.nl](mailto:Frans.Brom@wur.nl)

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Selection Committee,

Frans W.A. Brom  
Secretary

## Conferences & Meetings

### 2006

Jan 5-6

**Visions for Animal Agriculture and the Environment (Kansas City, Missouri - USA)**  
[www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/Airy\\_home.htm](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/Airy_home.htm)

Feb 1-3

**Enhancing transparency from farm to fork. CIES International Food Safety Conference (Paris - France)**  
<http://foodsafety2006.iso-intl.com/main.asp?>

Mar 15-16

**Nutrigenomics and Health - From Vision to Food LMC International Food Congress (Copenhagen - Denmark)**  
Organised by Centre for Advanced Food Studies  
<http://www.lmccongress.dk>

Mar 27-29

**British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) Annual Conference 2006 (York - UK)**  
[www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings\\_&\\_Workshops/Annual\\_Conference/Annual\\_Conference\\_2006](http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Annual_Conference/Annual_Conference_2006)

Apr 3-6

**6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza (Cambridge - UK)**  
e-mail: [AI.Symposium@seprl.usda.gov](mailto:AI.Symposium@seprl.usda.gov)

Apr 27-29

**Global Ethics 2006. What is Global Ethics and How to Research it?" (Ghent - Belgium)**  
International Conference on Global Ethics, Ghent University,  
Hosted by the Center for Ethics & Value Inquiry (CEVI) at Ghent University, Belgium, the conference brings together scholars in various disciplines (philosophy, ethics, sociology, geography, international relations, anthropology, political science) on the theme of 'global ethics'. The aim of the conference is to create a forum where various approaches and issues in researching 'Global Ethics' are discussed.  
[www.cevi-globaethics.be/index.php?lan=e](http://www.cevi-globaethics.be/index.php?lan=e)

May 14-18

**VALDOR - VALues in Decisions On Risk (Stockholm - Sweden)**  
The symposium is arranged to support the further development of transparent risk management. The organizers take a holistic and democratic approach to societal decision-making in complex issues which almost always include risk related matters  
[www.congrex.com/valdor2006](http://www.congrex.com/valdor2006)

May 30-31

**Elements for a Sustainable Europe. Joint Organic Congress 2006 (Odense - Denmark)**  
Conference will examine what research in organic food and farming can offer in regard to the

development of agriculture and food production, rural development and environmental protection in Europe.

Claus Bo Andreasen:  
[Clausbo.Andreasen@agrsci.dk](mailto:Clausbo.Andreasen@agrsci.dk)  
[www.okologi-kongres.dk/uk/](http://www.okologi-kongres.dk/uk/)

Jun 4-7

**PATH - Participatory Approaches in Science and Technology (Edinburgh - UK)**  
[www.macaulay.ac.uk/PATHconference](http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/PATHconference)

Jun 7-11

**Place, Taste, and Sustenance: The Social Spaces of Food and Agriculture (Boston, Massachusetts - USA)**  
Joint 2006 Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS)  
Hosted by Boston University's Programs in Gastronomy, Boston, Massachusetts  
Contributed Paper Abstracts of Proposals for Sessions/Panels due: February 10, 2006  
[www.food-culture.org/conference.html](http://www.food-culture.org/conference.html)

Jun 21-24

**EurSafe 2006 - Ethics and the Politics of Food (Oslo - Norway)**  
<http://eursafe2006.etikkom.no/>

Jul 9-13

**Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) (with ADSA) (Minneapolis - USA)**  
[www.asas.org/future.asp](http://www.asas.org/future.asp)

Aug 6-9

**ABIC 2006. Unlocking the Potential of Agricultural Biotechnology (Melbourne - Australia)**  
Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC)  
<http://www.abic2006.org/index2.html>

Aug 6-10

**11th International Congress of Human Genetics (Brisbane - Australia)**  
John C MacMillan: [ichg2006@icms.com.au](mailto:ichg2006@icms.com.au)  
[www.ichg2006.com/Default.asp](http://www.ichg2006.com/Default.asp)

Aug 8-12

**Applying Ethology: Links Between Fundamental and Applied Research (Bristol - UK)**  
40th International Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology  
Hosted by the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Group at the University of Bristol  
[www.isae2006.co.uk/](http://www.isae2006.co.uk/)

Aug 13-18

**8th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) (Belo Horizonte, MG - Brazil)**

[www.wcgalp8.org.br/paginaInicial.do](http://www.wcgalp8.org.br/paginaInicial.do)

Aug 20-25

**ISAG 2006. 30th International Conference on Animal Genetics (Porto Seguro - Brazil)**

Hosted by Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction  
[www.cbra.org.br/eventos/XXXisag.do](http://www.cbra.org.br/eventos/XXXisag.do)

Sep 4-6

**IX Congress of the European Society for Agronomy (Warsaw - Poland)**

[www.esa.org.pl/](http://www.esa.org.pl/)

Sep 13-15

**Quality of Life: The Heart of the Matter (London - UK)**

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) / British Veterinary Association (BVA) Ethics Committee International Symposium 2006  
[www.ufaw.org.uk/quality%20of%20life.htm](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/quality%20of%20life.htm)

Sep 17-20

**Sustaining Production Systems to Improve the Livelihoods (health, well-being, wealth) of Livestock Farmers (Antalya - Turkey)**

57th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP)  
[www.eaap2006.gen.tr](http://www.eaap2006.gen.tr)

Sep 28-30

**New Pathways for European Bioethics (Leuven - Belgium)**

Annual conference organised by the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics (EACME)  
e-mail: [Chris.Gastmans@med.kuleuven.be](mailto:Chris.Gastmans@med.kuleuven.be)  
[www.kuleuven.be/cbmer/congres/page.php?LAN=E&CID=13&FILE=congres](http://www.kuleuven.be/cbmer/congres/page.php?LAN=E&CID=13&FILE=congres)

Nov 3-4

**Genes, Brain/Mind and Behavior (Heidelberg - Germany)**

Organised by EMBL/EMBO - European Molecular Biology Laboratory/Organisation  
<http://www.embl.org/conference2006/scope06>

Dec 15-19

**ISEE 2006 (New Delhi - India)**

9th Biennial Conference of International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) on Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-being  
[www.isee2006.com/index.htm](http://www.isee2006.com/index.htm)

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## Books & Reports

### New books

**Ethics, Law and Society. Volume 1**

edited by J Gunning & S Holm, Ashgate Publishing Limited, Aldershot, Hants, UK (2005)  
ISBN 0754645835

**The Human-Animal Relationship. Forever and a Day**

edited by FH De Jonge & R Van den Bos, Van Gorcum, Assen (2005)  
ISBN 9023240820

**Animal Bioethics: Principles and Teaching Methods**

edited by M Marie; S Edwards; G Gandini; M Reiss & E von Borel, Wageningen Academic publishers, Wageningen, The Netherlands (2005)  
ISBN 9076998582

See: [www.WageningenAcademic.com/bioethics](http://www.WageningenAcademic.com/bioethics)

**Fat Politics. The Real Story behind America's Obesity Epidemic**

by Eric Oliver, Oxford University Press (2005)

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## New Agricultural Ethics Institute

### EticAgro

With the creation of the Instituto de Calidad y Etica Empresarial (EticAgro) (Institute for Quality and Ethics in Business) last April, 2005, and the setting up of an important

counseling board composed by agricultural and technological institutions, some other technical exponents of the public and private sectors, as well as internationally renowned organizations

such as CEPAL and the BID, the School of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA) has successfully met all commitments made when the Global Pact of the United Nations was subscribed.

Thus this important school of advanced studies is now leading in Argentina the most valuable initiative of that world organization aiming at the irrevocable respect for the four axes in the agro-industrial environment, namely human rights, labor laws, protection of the environment and fight against corruption. It is to a certain extent the answer of the people carrying out agricultural activities, which are not only the main motor of the economy and national development, but can also become the most genuine exponent of high quality and ethics at the service of society as a whole.

It is well known that over thirty percent of the total amount of jobs in our country, as well as fifty-six percent of all exports, are generated by the agro-industrial chain, which thus becomes the most competitive productive force in Argentina. So in EticAgro, we believe this competitiveness should also be reflected in our capacity to generate knowledge, create awareness, develop a strong sense of commitment and action on high quality management, as well as good manufacturing and agricultural practices. We also intend to protect the environment and strengthen the notion of social business responsibilities and fair trade.

### Argentine Leadership

About 260 Argentine companies have signed in the Global Pact of the United Nations, and over 90 percent are small and medium-sized companies. This means that Argentina leads the commitment proposed by the United Nations, in spite of the fact that it was a voluntary decision of all companies.

This response from companies and businessmen was clear evidence of what later on took place in other areas. For example, the counseling board at FAUBA is formed by professionals belonging to other institutions such as AACREA, AAPRESID, INTA, INTI, SENASA, COPAL, MCBA and all other institutions representing agricultural producers as well as all other international organizations

concerned with the economic development of nations in Latin America, or other work teams whose main objective is to develop a feeling of solidarity among fellow citizens, such as Solidagro.

### Examples to follow

When EticAgro was officially introduced at the School of Agronomy, concrete lines of action were designed in order to enable the follow-up and the certification, if possible, of witness cases working successfully.

Authorities from the Los Balcanes sugar mill, in Tucumán, were present. They are working hard in order to reduce the burning of cane waste in order to reduce pollution as much as possible, and hopefully avoid it by 2010. Another important case was that of the Central Market of Buenos Aires, which fully adhered to the Global Pact at the request of EticAgro. Authorities aim at reducing the informal working conditions of porters, doing away with child labor, and creating micro-companies with jobless people. This has been the initiative of “Last Minute Market” together with FAUBA and the old, famous University of Bologna. A program called ‘All food is valuable’ also offered its support to the initiative.

Some other organizations present at the School of Agronomy and offering their support were ‘Manos de la Tierra’ and Solidagro, the latter operating since 2002. Solidagro has regional banks in Buenos Aires (Pergamino), Chaco (Charata and Resistencia), Corrientes (Mercedes), San Juan (together with INTA-Prohuerta) and very soon in Mendoza, at the very heart of the prolific Valle de Uco.

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## EurSafe information

### Executive Secretariat

The executive secretariat of EurSafe is provided by **Paul den Besten**, who also is director of the Royal Netherlands Society of Agricultural Sciences. Paul can be reached by e-mail at: [paul.denbesten@wur.nl](mailto:paul.denbesten@wur.nl)  
Classic mail to Eursafe can be sent to the address:  
Eursafe secretariat  
P.o.box 79  
6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands

### Executive Committee

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### Website

[www.eursafe.org](http://www.eursafe.org)

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**Deadline for the next issue: 25 February 2006**