



# European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

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## ***Newsletter***

***Volume 3, No.2, June 2001***

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### **Editorial**

Happy holidays and see you in Florence!

*Volkert Beekman, Dirk Lips, Kate Millar, Erminio Monteleone, Silke Schicktanz, Geir Tveit*

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## **EurSafe News**

### **Third Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe 2001)**

#### ***Food Safety, Food Quality and Food Ethics***

**Florence**

**October 3-5, 2001**

#### ***Update***

##### *Preliminary Timetable*

The Congress Secretariat will be open for registration formalities at 11.00, Wednesday, October 3. The opening session will begin at 15.00. Four plenary lectures, followed by discussion, are scheduled for the afternoon of October 3. The timetable for the second (Thursday, October 4) and the third day (Friday, October 5) is similar. It includes two plenary sessions and two parallel sessions each day. The daily program starts at 9.00 and ends at 18.30 with a break from 13.00 to 14.30 for lunch. Coffee breaks are scheduled at mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

##### *Round Tables*

Three Round Tables or Workshops are scheduled on the following topics:

- Ethical Tools – Chairperson: Bart Gremmen
- Professional Ethics – Chairperson: Abbo de Wit
- Models and Strategies for Public-Industry-Government Communication – Chairpersons: Mariachiara Tallacchini & Linda Fulponi

##### *Social Events*

Social events include a welcome cocktail and a welcome concert (classic repertory) on Wednesday night, and the official dinner on Friday night (end of the official program of the

Congress). Thursday night is a free evening for informal chats and a walk through the streets of Florence. Participants and accompanying persons will be able to choose between a guided tour of the Chianti area or a full-day visit of Florence art treasures on Saturday, October 6. The Accademia dei Georgofili seat at the Logge degli Affizi will be open for visit during the week of the Congress.

##### *Accompanying Persons*

The accompanying persons' program also includes opening ceremony, welcome cocktail and concert on October 3, the Dominican Florence guided tour on October 4 (from 10.00 to 15.30), and the official dinner on October 5.

##### *More Information on the Program*

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##### *More Information on Logistics*

Girovagare Viaggi, Viale Milton 81-11r-50129 Firenze, Italy, phone + 39 055 489326, fax + 39 055 476393, e-mail: [os@mediahouse.it](mailto:os@mediahouse.it), website: <http://www.georgofili.it>



**EU and US Arguments regarding Environmental & Human Health Risks  
Associated with Genetically Modified Foods  
Workshop Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the European Society for Agricultural  
and Food Ethics  
Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen Denmark  
Co-ordinated by Tarla Rai Peterson  
Department of Communication, Texas A&M University**

**Report**

*Agenda*

The workshop opened with personal introductions and plenary discussion. Two reports on current research and outreach efforts were presented, and attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions about the reports. Participants divided into groups for the first workgroup session and discussed research and outreach needs. A break followed, during which the secretary and reporter for each group prepared their group's report for plenary. Everyone reconvened and each group reported, allowing questions and discussion after the reports. After lunch, two more reports were given on current research and outreach efforts. Next, participants talked about how these efforts relate to human health and environmental risk. This was followed by the second workgroup session on developing a preliminary outline for a co-ordinated research and outreach effort. The groups presented their outlines and discussed possible research designs. A discussion and summary of the day's events followed, and the workshop was adjourned.

*Reports*

Jesper Lassen (Aalborg University Department for Development and Planning) reported on *European Perceptions of Food Biotechnology as Indicated by Eurobarometer Findings*. Lori P. Knowles (the Hastings Center) then reported on *The Hastings Center's Project on Public Perceptions of Agricultural Biotechnology*. During the afternoon session, Frans Brom (Utrecht University Centre for Bioethics and Health Law) reported on *The Transatlantic Platform for Consumer Concerns and International Trade*. Sigrid Sterckx (Ghent University Department of Philosophy and Moral Science) reported on *Ethical Dilemmas Posed by Questions of Intellectual Property*.

*Workgroup Sessions*

The morning workgroup sessions focused on identifying research and outreach needs to facilitate international co-operation and policy-making. Participants divided into two groups and assigned a reporter, secretary, and timekeeper for each group. People worked in pairs to identify research questions, informational needs and outreach needs. When the lists were complete, group members discussed their lists. The groups then selected a research question and determined the most relevant informational and outreach needs.

During the afternoon workgroup sessions, participants worked toward preliminary outlines for co-ordinated research and outreach efforts. After attempting to refine the research questions asked during the morning session, groups attempted to determine which information needs were most relevant, and to identify both outreach activities and research questions that were important to current policy-making dilemmas.

*Preliminary Questions for Research and Outreach Efforts*

Participants agreed that there was a pervasive need to develop a better understanding of the various ethical and moral issues that result from different cultural/political/historical backgrounds. Questions associated with this concern included:

- What do people think/feel/perceive and why do they do so?
- How can we create a sphere for consideration of different cultural and ethical views at all levels ranging from the local to the international policy making level?
- How do we connect local, regional and international issues of culture? What do we gain by doing so?

Participants discussed the need to understand the concept of trust, how it functions generally, and specific concerns associated with food biotechnology. Questions associated with this concern included:



- How do issues of trust, accountability and ownership affect people's perceptions of biotechnology generally?
- Are there specific issues of trust associated with genetically modified foods?
- How does uncertainty relate to trust? Is it possible to model uncertainty in a way that helps the public understand it better?
- What strategies and techniques can be used to enhance public trust in the science and technology involved in genetically modified foods?

Participants voiced a concern that more research was needed regarding ethical implications of concepts such as Invention, Novelty, and Industrial Application. Questions associated with this concern included:

- Regarding biological resources, where does ownership reside? Who should control patents? What is the ethical justification for this answer? How can ethics be explicitly taken into account in the patent granting process?
- Should researchers have free access to biological resources? What influence does this decision have on science and its application?
- What are the practical implications of current patent systems?

Participants agreed that various regulation schemes should be investigated. They suggested beginning with the following questions:

- At what level and via what sectors should biotechnology be regulated? What are the local, regional, national, and worldwide implications of this decision?
- What are the appropriate criteria to be used when making decisions about genetically modified foods? How do we decide which criteria are appropriate and which are inappropriate?

Participants concluded that the research questions they had posed would profit by interdisciplinary and international involvement from such disciplines as geneticists, animal

scientists, international law experts, legislative bodies, economists, philosophers, religious leaders, etc.

#### *Workshop Participants*

Sofie Krogh Andersen (NOAH, Friends of the Earth), Kristian Borch (RisØ National Laboratory), Frans W.A. Brom (Centre for Bio-Ethics and Health Law, Utrecht University), Donald Bruce (SRT Project, John Knox House), Lawrence Busch (Institute for Food and Agricultural Standards & Department of Sociology, Michigan State University), Susan Carr (The Open University, Faculty of Technology, Biotechnology Policy Group, Centre for Technical Strategy), Linda Fulponi (OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), Bart Gremmen (Centre for Methodical Ethics and Technology Assessment, Wageningen University and Research Centre), John Hodges (Independent, Formerly United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), Susie Hodges (Independent), G. Hovens-Lenstra (Assessment Centre of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries), Richard I. Jones (Department of Marketing, University of Southern Denmark – Odense University), Lori P. Knowles (The Hastings Center), Michiel Korthals (Applied Philosophy Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre), Jesper Lassen (Department for Development and Planning, Aalborg University), Marielle Matthee (Asser Institute), Franck L. B. Meijboom (Executive Officer EurSafe, Utrecht University, Centre for Bio-ethics and Health Law), Gitte Meyer (Centre for Bio-ethics and Risk Management, RisØ National Laboratory), Matias Pasquali (Plant Pathology, University of Turin), Sylvie Pouteau (Laboratoire de Biologie Cellulaire, INRA), Jan Staman (Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries), Sigrid Sterckx (Department of Philosophy and Moral Science, Ghent University), Paul Thompson (Department of Philosophy, Purdue University)



## Conferences & Courses

*Unfortunately the conference "What Price Cheap Food?" to be held in Edinburgh (UK) in June has been postponed (see December 2001 Newsletter for further conference details). The organising committee now plans to hold the meeting as a satellite to the annual BSAS conference in York (UK) on April 7-8, 2002. Further details will posted.*

### July - September 2001

July 9-11

#### ***Nature and Technology***

University of Aberdeen, Scotland. More Information, website: <http://www.spt.org>, Andrew Light, SPTt Conference, Environmental Conservation Education Program, 246 Greene Street, Suite 300, New York University, New York, USA, e-mail: [andrew.light@nyue.edu](mailto:andrew.light@nyue.edu)

July 11-16

#### ***Ethical Issues of Food and Agriculture: The Moral Fabric in Contemporary Societies***

The International Institute of Sociology, Cracow, Poland. More Information: Krzysztof Gorlach, local RC 40 representative, Jagiellonian University, Institute of Sociology, ul. Grodzka 52, 31-044 Kraków, Poland, fax 48 12 430 2099, e-mail: [gorlach@theta.uoks.uj.edu.pl](mailto:gorlach@theta.uoks.uj.edu.pl), Patrick H. Mooney, 1559 Patterson Office Tower, University of Kentucky, Department of Sociology, Lexington, KY 40506-0027, United States, e-mail: [soc168@pop.uky.edu](mailto:soc168@pop.uky.edu), website: <http://confer.uj.edu.pl/iis2001>

July 17-23

#### ***Consumption, Everyday Life and Sustainability***

Summer School Lancaster University, United Kingdom. More Information: Joann Bowker, Department of Sociology, Cartmel College, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YL, United Kingdom, website: <http://www.comp.lancs.ac.uk/sociology/esf>

August 1-2

#### ***Nature in Legend and Story (NILAS)***

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, e-mail: [dswilson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dswilson@ucdavis.edu)

September 8-13

#### ***Biomedicine Within the Limits of Human Existence. Bioethics: an Interdisciplinary Challenge and a Cultural Project***

Davos, Switzerland. More Information, website: <http://www.esf.org/euresco/01/hc01175a.htm>

September 13-15

#### ***9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human-Animal Interaction***

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More Information, website: <http://www.iahaio.org>, e-mail: [rio2001@i-et-e.fr](mailto:rio2001@i-et-e.fr)

September 26-28

#### ***Transplant Evaluation - Quality, Costs and Bioethics***

International Scientific Congress in Barcelona. More information: Grup Serveis, Organització de Congressos, Valencias, 261, 08007 Barcelona, phone 934881177, e-mail: [grup@grupserveis.com](mailto:grup@grupserveis.com)



## **October - December 2001**

- October 17-20**      ***Innovations for an e-Society. Challenges for Technology Assessment***  
Berlin, Germany. More Information: Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS), Postfach 3640, D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany.
- November 24–26**      ***Bürgerkonferenz Streitfall Gendiagnostik***  
First German-wide consensus-conference on genetic testing. Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden. More information: Silke Schicktanz, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Lingnerplatz 1, D-01069 Dresden, Germany, e-mail: [schicktanz@dhmd.de](mailto:schicktanz@dhmd.de), website: [http:// www.buergerkonferenz.de](http://www.buergerkonferenz.de)
- November 29-30**      ***1<sup>st</sup> International Nutrigenomics Conference***  
Noordwijk aan Zee, The Netherlands. More Information, e-mail: [ommen@voeding.tno.nl](mailto:ommen@voeding.tno.nl)

## **2002**

- January 17-20**      ***Impunity, Justice and Development: Ethics and Policy***  
6th International Conference on Ethics and International Development International Development Ethics Association (IDEA), National Autonomous University of Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. More Information, website: <http://www.carleton.ca/idea/newsletter>, David A. Crocker, e-mail: [dc134@umail.umd.edu](mailto:dc134@umail.umd.edu), or Ramon Romero, e-mail: [rromero@edured.net](mailto:rromero@edured.net)
- July 5-12**      ***Humankind/Nature Interaction: Past, Present and Future***  
XVth Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. Florence, Italy. More Information, website: <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.
- July 22-27**      ***European Culture in a Changing World: Between Nationalism and Globalism***  
The 8th International Conference of The International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI), The University of Wales, Aberystwyth. More Information: Dr. Daniel Meyer-Dinkgrafe, e-mail: [dam@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dam@aber.ac.uk), fax + 44 1970 622831, Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, Perry Williams Building, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3AJ, Wales UK.
- Augustus 4-8**      ***4<sup>th</sup> 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)



## Institutes & Projects

*All members of EurSafe are invited to send descriptions of their projects or institutes in the field of agricultural and food ethics, which will be presented in this section in the EurSafe Newsletter. Please send your descriptions (about a half page) to Silke Schicktanz, e-mail: [si\\_schi@gmx.net](mailto:si_schi@gmx.net)*

### Values and Ethics in Organic Animal Husbandry (1998 – 2002)

#### Goals

- to describe and define ecological animal husbandry in a holistic perspective;
- to describe and analyse areas of ethical conflicts within ecological animal husbandry in a value perspective;
- to formulate an ecological animal ethics and to study what implications this may have for animal husbandry in practice;
- to define what the concept ethical quality could imply for ecological animal husbandry and its products;
- to make suggestions regarding tools for analysing this ethical quality.

#### Methods

- I. Creating a basis of knowledge for an ethical analysis:
  - a) Literature studies
  - b) Comparisons between standards for organic animal husbandry
  - c) Assessment of the health effects of organic animal husbandry
  - d) Interview study and survey of Swedish organic farmers
- II. Ethical analysis and construction
  - a) Definition and description of basic values and norms represented in organic animal husbandry
  - b) Description and discussion of areas with value conflicts
  - c) Construction of an ethics for organic animal husbandry
- III. An outline to determine ethical quality in organic animal husbandry
  - a) To suggest a definition for the concept of ethical quality in organic animal products and measurable criteria for ethical quality in organic animal husbandry

#### Application of Results.

The results are expected to give guidance for farmers, consumers, authorities and others regarding the ethical quality of ecological animal husbandry as well as of animal products. Better defined guiding principles can be expected to facilitate the development of an

ecological animal husbandry. A proven higher ethical quality in animal husbandry and/or in the products can be expected to motivate a higher price and provide advantages on the market.

#### More Information

Vonne Lund, Department of Animal Environment and Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Box 234, SE-532 23 Skara, Sweden, e-mail: [vonne.lund@hnh.slu.se](mailto:vonne.lund@hnh.slu.se)

### IFgene (International Forum for Genetic Engineering)

IFgene is particularly interested in the philosophical and ethical issues behind the public debate about genetic engineering of plants, animals and humans. Although inspired by anthroposophy it takes a pluralist standpoint with respect to genetic engineering, aiming at facilitating a more profound dialogue between representatives of different worldviews. The homepage is known as an important source of information about genetic engineering. The IFgene group regularly organizes conferences and workshops, publishing the proceedings afterwards. The most recent workshop was about intrinsic value and integrity of plants (Dornach, May 9 – 11, 2001). The discussion started there will be continued in the beginning of 2002 (workshop planned in the UK).

#### More Information

Johannes Wirz, Goetheanum, CH-4143 Dornach, Switzerland, phone + 41 61 7064210, e-mail: [100716.1756@Compuserve.Com](mailto:100716.1756@Compuserve.Com), website: <http://www.anth.org/ifgene>

### Louis Bolk Institute

Innovative and independent research institute in the field of organic agriculture. Projects of interest:

- reconstructing the ethos of organic farming;
- meaning of naturalness in organic farming;



- the concept of animal welfare and animal integrity in organic farming;
- reasons why organic farming is against GMOs;
- definition and methods of measuring food quality.

#### More Information

Hoofdstraat 24, NL – 3972 LA Driebergen,  
 phone + 31 343 523860, website:  
<http://www.louisbolk.nl>, e-mail:  
[h.verhoog@louisbolk.nl](mailto:h.verhoog@louisbolk.nl)

## Legislation & Policy

### De Facto Moratorium for GM plants in EU at least until Middle of 2001

The European Union will not lift an effective ban on new genetically modified organisms until well into 2001. The 15-nation EU agreed a new law on the procedure for allowing new GMOs to be sold, but EC Environment Commissaire Wallstrom said national governments wanted to wait for further legal proposals before even thinking about lifting the 18 month-old moratorium. At the demand of national governments, the Commission is drafting additional legislation on labelling and tracing the supply of GMOs and on making companies liable for any damage their products might cause to the environment which should be published in the coming months (Source: Genetic Engineering Newsletter 18 January 2001, website: <http://www.biogene.org/e/e-indexx.html>.)

### Codex Alimentarius

The Codex Alimentarius (Codex) is a commission jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex adopts standards that may be used by its 162 participating

governments to develop national regulations. Codex is currently developing a variety of international standards for the trade of genetically modified food (GMF). Codex has three committees that are considering various issues related to genetically modified food (GMF). These committees are the following:

- 1) Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL);
- 2) Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP);
- 3) Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (Task Force).

Information on Codex and Codex documents are available on the FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/economic/esn/codex> The US-delegation also publishes its summary reports from Codex meetings on its website: [www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/codex](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/codex) The OECD also has an active GMF work programme that may result in international regulatory standards. Details on the OECD work can be found at website: <http://www.oecd.org/subject/biotech/> (Source: GENET: Regulation 29.05.01)

## Books & Journals

### Greenpeace

There is a new Study from Greenpeace about patents on human genes, cells, on human cloning procedures, on human embryos and human-animal-chimeras. More information, website: <http://www.greenpeace.org>

### Meyer, G., *Fighting Poverty with Biotechnology?*

In the near future important choices will have to be made in the Third World and in Europe. As yet genetically modified crops are common in neither developing nor European countries. Indeed only 10% of the global area producing such crops is estimated to be outside the USA and Argentina. The developing and European countries are thus free to choose whether - and if so, how - genetic modification and other



modern biotechnologies should be introduced into agriculture and food production. Do developing countries and European countries have anything in common in this matter? Should they be regarded as opponents or allies? Will they be free to make their choices independently of one another? Can areas of common interest be identified and cooperation stimulated?

This is the framework of a publication from the Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment in Denmark. The 32 pages booklet is written by Gitte Meyer, an experienced science journalist, on the basis of the deliberations during an international workshop about biotechnology and the Third World, held at the University of Copenhagen in September 2000.

"*Fighting Poverty with Biotechnology*" can be obtained from the Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, Grønnegårdsvej 8, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark, phone + 45 3528 3010, fax + 45 3528 3022, e-mail: [bioethics@kvl.dk](mailto:bioethics@kvl.dk). A text version may be downloaded from <http://www.bioethics.kvl.dk>

**The Royal Society, *The Use of Genetically Modified Animals*. The Royal Society, London 2001**

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Introduction  
 What is Genetic Modification  
 Techniques for Altering Genetic Make-Up  
 Uses of GM Animals  
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 Weighing Benefits against Burdens  
 Conclusions and Recommendations  
 References  
 Available from <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/news/index.html>

**Weston, A., *21st Century Ethical Toolbox*, Oxford University Press 2001**

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 Welcome to the Ethical Toolbox

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- 5 Some Traditional Ethical Theories  
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"Animal Rescue"

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Woodsorrel Oxalis, "It's a Little Wild Out  
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Notes for Teachers: The Toolbox in the  
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**Wenz, P.S., *Environmental Ethics Today*.  
Oxford University Press 2000**

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**Young, R. & A. Craig, *Too Hard to Swallow:  
The Truth About Drugs and Poultry. The  
Use and Misuse of Antibiotics in UK  
Agriculture – Part 3 Residues of Dangerous  
Drugs in Intensively Produced Chicken  
Meat and Eggs Soil*. Association 2001**

Cost £15 from the Soil Association, Bristol  
House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6BY,  
UK, phone + 44 117 929 0661, fax + 44 117  
925 2504 or

<http://www.soilassociation.org/SA/Saweb.nsf>

*Part 1: Current Usage* and *Part 2: Antibiotic  
Resistance and Human Health* are also  
available from the Soil Association.



## EurSafe Information

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### Executive Committee

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Cees Veerman, Executive Board of the Wageningen University and Research Centre, Costerweg 50, 6701 BH Wageningen, The Netherlands, e-mail: [Wilma.Wessels@cv.cvb.wau.nl](mailto:Wilma.Wessels@cv.cvb.wau.nl)



## 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 Newsletter should be sent to Volkert Beekman ([v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl](mailto:v.beekman@lei.wag-ur.nl)).

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