

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

Newsletter

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Volume 2, No. 1
.....

March 2000
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Editorial

We proudly present the first issue of the second volume of the Newsletter of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe). Unfortunately, Raoul Weiler and Trine Iversen had to resign as co-editors of this Newsletter. We would like to thank them for the work they have done for the first volume of the Newsletter. Luckily, Dirk Lips and Berit Faber agreed to succeed them as co-editors of this Newsletter. Dirk Lips works at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), and Berit Faber at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen (Denmark). Dirk and Berit, welcome in our midst!

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

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EurSafe News

EurSafe 2000: Two Systems - One World

August 24-26, 2000, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Final Conference Call

Aims of the Congress

- * To further our understanding of the values underlying modern agriculture and food production;
- * To understand the different attitudes that groups in society hold towards agriculture and food production;
- * To promote critical discussion of these values and attitudes;
- * To suggest and discuss policies for and ways of regulating agriculture and food production.

Themes for this Congress

- * Ethical issues in organic farming and food production;
- * Ethical issues in agricultural and food biotechnology;
- * Reshaping of conventional farming - A European model?

Draft Programme

Thursday, August 24, 2000

- 11.00 Registration
- 13.30 Lunch – Sandwich
- 14.00 Welcome
- 14.15 Opening Lecture "Ethics in Agriculture in the New Millennium"
- PLENARY SESSION: ETHICAL ISSUES IN ORGANIC FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION
- 14.45 Key-note Lecture: Dr. Urs Niggli, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland
- 15.15 Key-note Lecture: Ms. Mette Vaarst, Danish Institute of Agricultural Science, Foulum, Denmark
- 15.45 Comments, Questions and Discussion
- 16.45 Coffee/Tea
- 17.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS
- 19.00 Meet Together Buffet

Friday, August 25, 2000

- PLENARY SESSION: ETHICAL ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY
- 09.00 Key-note Lecture: Ms. Andrea de Falco, Swiss Ethics Committee on Non-Human Gene Technology, Switzerland
- 09.30 Key-note Lecture: Dr. Michael Reiss, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- 10.00 Comments, Questions and Discussion
- 11.00 Coffee/Tea
- 11.15 PARALLEL SESSIONS
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Excursions
- 19.00 Gala Conference Dinner at Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen

Saturday, August 26, 2000

- PLENARY SESSION: RESHAPING OF CONVENTIONAL FARMING – A EUROPEAN MODEL?
- 09.00 Key-note Lecture: Prof. John Hodges
- 09.30 Key-note Lecture: Prof. Paul B. Thompson, Purdue University, Indiana, USA
- 10.00 Questions and Discussion
- 11.00 Break (Coffee/Tea)
- 11.15 PARALLEL SESSIONS
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Presidential Address: Prof. Cees Veerman, Wageningen University and Research Center, The Netherlands
- 15.00 Establishment of EurSafe
First General Assembly
- 18.00 Farewell Reception

Scientific Committee

Dr. Michael J. Reiss (Chairman), Cambridge University, United Kingdom
Dr. Frans W.A. Brom, Centre for Bio-ethics and Health Law, The Netherlands
Prof. Matthias Kaiser, The National Committee for Research Ethics, Oslo, Norway
Prof. Magni Martens, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Organising Committee

Peter Sandøe (Chairman), Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Claus Bo Andreasen, Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming, Foulum, Tjele, Denmark
Bettina Christiansen, Structure and Research Secretariat, Danish Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Copenhagen, Denmark
Stine B. Christiansen, Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Anne-Lise Ito, Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Berit Faber, Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Trine Iversen, Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Gudrun Lefmann, Information Secretariat, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark
Aase H. Thylstrup, Centre for Ecology and Environment, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Tåstrup, Denmark

Important Date

June 15, 2000: Final Programme and Abstracts

Congress Registration & Housing Form (Invoice)

*Second Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)
August 23-26, 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Please use BLOCK LETTERS OR CAPITALS when completing this form!

Participant

Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof

Last Name:

First Name(s):

Mailing Address:

Street:

Postal Code:

City/State:

Country:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Accompanying Person(s)

Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof

Last name:

First name(s):

Last name:

First name(s):

Congress Information

Ms. Annelise Ito and Ms. Berit Faber
Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment
The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University
Groennegaardsvej 8
1870 Frederiksberg C
Denmark
Phone + 45 3528 3010/09
Fax + 45 3528 3022
E-mail: ai@kvl.dk or bfa@kvl.dk

Updated Information

<http://www.husdyr.kvl.dk/html/psa/eursafe.htm>

Conferences

International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture in the Next Millennium

March 2000, the Impact of Modern Biotechnology on Developing Countries, Brussels, Belgium. More information: Olivier Christ, Project Coordinator, 29 rue Blanche, 1060 Brussels, Belgium, phone + 32 2 5420182, fax + 32 2 5375596, e-mail: olivier.christ@foeeurope.org, web-site: <http://www.foeeurope.org/biotechnology/about.htm>

Farming and Ranching for Profit, Stewardship, and Community

March 7-9, 2000, Portland, Oregon, USA. More information: Gina Hashagen, Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA, phone + 1 541 7375477, fax + 1 541 7373479, e-mail: hashageg@bcc.orst.edu, web-site: <http://wsare.usu.edu/2000/media.htm>

Food, Nutrition and Resources

March 9, 2000, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Keynotes by N.S. Scrimshaw, P. Dasgupta, and P. Pinstup-Andersen. More information: Arthur Mutsaers, IAC/Netherlands Forum on Agricultural Research for Development, PO Box 88, 6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands, phone + 31 317 495235, fax + 31 317 495395, e-mail: a.a.j.mutsaers@iac.agro.nl, web-site: <http://www.iac-agro.nl/infoserv>

Biodiversity and Biotechnology

March 10-12, 2000, Botanical Garden of Bern, Switzerland. The second international workshop on biotech matters in Bern, which will produce a volume to be published at Birkhauser Basel and Boston. The workshop will have highly informed discussions about the difficult relations between biotechnology and biodiversity. Themes:

1. Impact of Agricultural Biotechnology on Ecosystems;
2. Social, Ethical and Legal Issues;
3. Impact of Biotechnology on Conservation;
4. Conclusions, The Way Ahead.

More information: Klaus Ammann (e-mail: kammann@sgi.unibe.ch) or Richard Braun (e-mail: rdbraun@bluewin.ch).

New Directions in Animal Training, Handling and Restraint

March 18, 2000, Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA. 7th Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Relations with Animals and the Natural World. More information: Deborah Rhone, e-mail: drhone@vet.upenn.edu, web-site: <http://www.vet.upenn.edu/cias/>

Annual British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) Meeting

March 20-22, 2000, Scarborough, UK. More information: BSAS, PO Box 3, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0RZ, Scotland, phone + 44 131 4454508, fax + 44 131 5353120, e-mail: BSAS@ed.sac.ac.uk, web-site: <http://www.bsas.org.uk/meetings/annual.htm>

Biology: Challenges for the New Millennium

March 22-24, 2000, 51st Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, Washington DC, USA. More information, web-site: <http://www.aibs.org/meeting2000/index.html>

The Food Safety Summit and Expo

March 22-24, 2000, Washington DC, USA. More information, e-mail: info@foodsafetysummit.com, web-site: <http://www.foodsafetysummit.com>

Phenomenology, Embodiment and Ethics

March 24, 2000, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. More information: H. Zwart, Center for Ethics University of Nijmegen (CEKUN), PO Box 9103, 6500 HD Nijmegen, The Netherlands, phone + 31 24 3611995, fax + 31 24 3615564, e-mail: hzwart@phil.kun.nl, web-site: <http://baserv.uci.kun.nl/~haezwart/zwart/phenomenology.html>

Nutrition and Schoolchildren

March 30, 2000, British Nutrition Foundation, London, UK. More information: phone + 44 171 4046504.

Food Irradiation 2000

April 3-5, 2000, Commercializing a Food Safety Process for the New Millennium, Arlington, Virginia, USA. More information: Melanie Searle, phone + 1 207 7819800, fax + 1 207 7812150, e-mail: info@intertechusa.com, web-site: <http://www.intertechusa.com/site/conferences>

Environmental Philosophy and the Earth Sciences

April 7-9, 2000, Center for Environmental Philosophy, University of North Texas, Denton, USA. More information: Center for Environmental Philosophy, PO Box 310980, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76202-0980, USA, e-mail: cep@unt.edu

The Millennium International Children's Conference on the Environment

May 2000, Eastbourne, UK. In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme. More information: phone + 44 1323 726622, web-site: <http://www.unep.org>

The American Consumer in the Changing Food System

May 3-5, 2000, Washington, DC, USA. More information, web-site: <http://www.umass.edu/ne165/upcoming.html>

Consciousness, Cognition and Animal Welfare

May 11-12, 2000, the UFAW symposium, Zoological Society of London's Meeting Rooms, London, UK. More information: Dr Stephen Wickens, UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN, UK, phone + 44 1582 831818, fax + 44 1582 831414, e-mail: wickens@ufaw.org.uk, web-site: <http://www.ufaw3.dircon.co.uk>

Marketing Opportunities for British Livestock Products

May 17, 2000, School of Veterinary Science Langford (near Bristol), UK. Third Annual Langford Food Industry Conference. More information: Langford Continuing Education Unit, phone + 44 117 9289502, fax: + 44 1934 852170, e-mail: rita.hinton@bristol.ac.uk

Sustainable Energy: New Challenges for Agriculture and Implication for Land Use

May 18-20, 2000, Wageningen, The Netherlands. The following main topics will be considered at this conference:

1. Production of sustainable energy from biomass in developing and developed countries;
2. Demand for energy in agriculture and horticulture;
3. Agricultural and environmental policy issues.

The conference is being organised by Wageningen University, Wageningen Institute for Environmental and Climate Research (WIMEK/SENSE) in collaboration with the Mansholt Institute, the C.T. de Wit Graduate School Production Ecology (both in Wageningen), and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA, Austria). More information: Alfons Oude Lansink, Wageningen University, Department of Economics and Management, Hollandseweg 1, 6706 KN Wageningen, The Netherlands, phone + 31 317 485194, fax 31 317 482745, e-mail: Alfons.Oudelansink@alg.abe.wau.nl, web-site: <http://www.sls.wau.nl/congresme>

Are Genes Us?

May 19-21, 2000, Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference 2000, Manchester, UK. More information: Stephen Burwood, phone + 44 1482 346311, e-mail: s.a.burwood@phil.hull.ac.uk

Laboratory Animal Medicine: Advancing Science and Animal Welfare in the 21st Century

May 21-24, 2000, Fort Myers, Florida. More information, web-site: <http://www.aclam.org/forum2000.htm>

Workshop Environmental Policy, Agriculture and Biotechnology

May 29-30, 2000, Rome, sponsored by the European Science Foundation, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute and the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment. More information: Timothy Swanson, Professor of Environmental Policy (e-mail: Tim.Swanson@ucl.ac.uk) or Timo Göschl, Research Fellow (e-mail: T.Goschl@ucl.ac.uk), CSERGE, Department of Economics, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK, fax + 44 171 9162772.

Humans in the Land

Early June, 2000, Telemark College, Telemark, Norway. More information: Sven Arntzen, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Telemark College, 3800 Telemark, Norway, phone + 47 35 952741, fax + 47 35 952601, e-mail: sven.arntzen@hit.no

Millennial Stews: Food and Food Systems in the Global City

June 1-4, 2000, The Year 2000 Joint Annual Meeting of the ASFS and AFHVS, New York University, New York, USA. More information: Trish Lobenfeld, New York University, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies, 35 West 4th Street, 10th Floor, New York, USA, phone + 1 212 9985580, fax + 1 212 9954194, e-mail: food.conference@nyu.edu, web-site: <http://www.nyu.edu/education/nutrition/foodconference>

3rd Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference - ABIC 2000

June 5-8, 2000, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. More information, web-site: <http://www.abic.net>

Developing and Marketing Future Foods - the Challenge of Communication

June 7-9, 2000, Helsinki, Finland. More information, e-mail: paula.berqvist@vtt.fi, web-site: <http://www.vtt.fi/bel>

Challenges for Science and Engineering in the 21st Century

June 14-18, 2000, Stockholm, Sweden. International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES). Themes:

- A. Developing the culture of science and engineering;
- B. Science and engineering for a finite world;
- C. Humanizing the economy in a global context;
- D. Steps towards comprehensive security and lasting peace.

More information: INES 2000 Conference Secretariat, Gutenbergstr. 31, 44139 Dortmund, Germany, phone + 49 231 575218, fax + 49 231 575210, e-mail: INES2000@t-online.de

Connecting Environmental Ethics, Ecological Integrity and Health in the Millenium

June 24-29, 2000, San Jose, Costa Rica. More information: ISEE, Laura Westra, Sarah Lawrence College, 1 Meadway, Bates 100, Bronxville, NY 10708-5999, USA, phone + 1 914 3952487, fax + 1 914 3952666, e-mail: lwestra@mail.slc.edu

European Pesticide Residue Workshop: Pesticides in Food and Drink

July 3-5, 2000, York, UK. More information: EPRW 2000 Secretariat, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, UK, phone + 44 1904 462459, fax +44 1904 462253, e-mail: eprw2000@csl.gov.uk, web-site: <http://www.csl.gov.uk/news/level2/eprw3.htm>

Health and Risk II

July 3-5, 2000, St.Catherine's College, Oxford, UK. Second Biannual International Conference. More information, e-mail: p.dolan@sheffield.ac.uk

6th International Symposium on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms

July 8-13, 2000, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. More information, web-site: <http://www.usask.ca/agriculture/biosafety/>

British Society for Ethical Theory

July 13-16, 2000, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Keynote speakers:

- * Professor Dworkin (Princeton, USA);
- * Professor Phillip Pettit (Cambera, Australia).

More information: Prof. Dr. Theo van Willigenburg, Erasmus University Rotterdam, PO Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands, phone + 31 10 40808977, fax + 31 10 21204048 (attn. Van Willigenburg at room 5-09), e-mail: vanwilligenburg@fwb.eur.nl

The Ethical Challenges of Globalization

July 19-23, 2000, Sao Paulo, Brazil, The Second World Congress of the International Society of Business, Economics, and Ethics (ISBEE). More information, web-site: <http://www.synethos.org/isbee/SecondWorldCongress.htm>

Between Nature: Explorations in Ecology and Performance

July 27-30, 2000, Centre for the Study of Environmental Change & Department of Theatre Studies, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK. More information, web-site: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/csec/betweennature>

The 9th Annual Food Choice

July 28-31, 2000, Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland. More information, e-mail: r.g.platts@bham.ac.uk

New Cultures of Food: The Consequences for Food Supply Chains and Rural Environments

July 30 - August 5, 2000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Workshop at the World Congress of the International Rural Sociological Association (IRSA). Themes:

- * Consumer attitude towards animal welfare issues, GMO products, organic and Fair Trade products;
- * Changing notions of food quality;
- * Changing constitution of food supply chains in meeting new demands;
- * New theories of food consumption and food quality;
- * Food safety and perception of risk in food choice;

* Alternative consumption patterns: vegetarianism, consumer boycott, voluntary simplicity, etc.
More information: Dr. Mara Miele, University of Pisa, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, via del Borghetto 80, 56124 Pisa, Italy, phone + 39 50571553, fax + 39 50571344, e-mail: mmiele@agr.unip.it

Measuring Behavior 2000

August 15-18, 2000, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. 3rd International Conference on Methods and Techniques on Behavioral Research. Deadline for abstracts: March 31, 2000. More information, e-mail: mb2000@noldus.nl, web-site: <http://www.noldus.com/events/mb2000>

Thinking about the Environment: Our Debt to the Greek and Medieval Past

August 17-20, 2000, Firenze, Italy. More information: Laura Westra, Sarah Lawrence College, 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY 10708-5999, e-mail: lwestra@mail.slc.edu

IAATH - The International Alliance for Animal Therapy and Healing

August 17-20, 2000, Washington State University, Vancouver, Canada. More information: Penny Ramey, Extension Livestock Advisor Program, WSU Cooperative Extension, 11104 NE 149th Street C100, Brush Prairie WA 98606, Canada, e-mail: ramey@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu

Human Healthcare - Sciences, Technologies, Values

August 23-26, 2000, Second World Congress of Philosophy of Medicine, Krakow, Poland, European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care, Central and East European Association of Bioethics, Department of Philosophy and Bioethics, Kraków. More information: Prof. dr. Henk ten Have, Dept. of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine, University of Nijmegen, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands, phone + 31 24 3615320, fax + 31 24 3540254, e-mail: H.tenHave@efg.kun.nl

IFOAM 2000: The World Grows Organic

August 28-31, 2000, 13th International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Scientific Conference, Basel, Switzerland. Includes 1st International Seminar on "*Organic Food Processing, Organic Food: How to Guarantee Premium Quality for the New Millennium*", as accompanying event, August 29-30, 2000. More information: IFOAM 2000, FiBL, Ackerstrasse, 5070 Frick, Switzerland, phone + 41 62 8657297, fax + 41 62 8657273, e-mail: ifoam2000@fibl.ch, web-site: <http://www.ifoam2000.ch>

Valuing the Health Benefits of Food Safety

September 14-15, 2000, University of Maryland, USA. More information, web-site: <http://www.umass.edu/ne165/upcoming.html>

International Conference and Exhibition on Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

September 14-17, 2000, Houston, Texas, USA. More information, e-mail: fshahidi@morgan.ucs.mun.ca, or: s-koseoglu@tamu.edu

Fifth World Congress of Bioethics

September 21-24, 2000, Ethics, Law and Policy, Imperial College, London, UK. More information: Anne Lavender, Centre for Ethics in Medicine, 73 St Michael's Hill, Bristol, BS2 8BH, UK, e-mail: anne.lavender@bristol.ac.uk, web-site: <http://www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/ethics/fifthcon.htm>

2nd International Conference on Air Pollution from Agricultural Operations

October 9-11, 2000, Des Moines, Iowa, USA. More information: Bryan Shaw, Texas A&M University, phone + 1 409 8459793, fax + 1 409 8478828, e-mail: bw-shaw@tamu.edu

3rd International Conference on Transgenic Animals(ICTA)

October 16-21, 2000, Beijing, China. Sponsor: ISTR(International Society for Transgenic Research). Abstract Deadline: May 1, 2000. More information: David L. Kooyman, Department of Animal and Veterinary Science, Brigham Young University, 392 WIDB, Provo UT 84602-5169, USA, e-mail: david_kooyman@byu.edu, web-site: <http://www.ciccst.org.cn/icta>

34th International Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

October 17-20, 2000, Florianopolis, Brazil. Deadline for abstracts: March 31, 2000. More information, web-site: <http://www.cca.ufsc.br/isae2000>

International Symposium on Prospects for a Sustainable Dairy Sector in the Mediterranean

October 28, 2000, Hammamet, Tunisia. More information: Symposium Secretariat, Mon M Quellouz, Office de l'Elevage et des Paturages, 30 Rue Alain Saxory, 1002 Tunis, Tunisie, e-mail: DG.OEPC@Email.ati.tn

Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science, and Environment

February 25-27, 2001, University of Oregon, USA. More information: Environmental Studies program, 10 Pacific Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5223, USA, phone + 1 541 3465399, fax + 1 541 3465096, e-mail: tns@dwarking.uoregon.edu, web-site: <http://dwarking.uoregon.edu/~tns>

Organic Meat and Milk Production from Ruminants

September/ October 2001, Athens, Greece. Joint BSAS and Hellenic Society of Animal Production Meeting. This meeting will consist of eight invited keynote papers, theatre and poster papers, discussions and workshops. 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: BSAS, phone + 44 131 4454508, fax + 44 131 5353120, e-mail: bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk

Courses

Ecophilosophy and Earth Education

Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, Western Australia, phone + 61 8 93602913, fax + 61 8 93606421, e-mail: istp@central.murdoch.edu.au, web-site: <http://www.wistp.murdoch.edu.au>

Ethics in the Life Sciences

Two workshops to assist life science faculty members in integrating discussion of ethical issues into existing science courses. Particular attention is paid to ethical issues in agricultural biotechnology at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, June 3-8, 2000, and to marine science at FLAD (Fundacao Lus-Americana para o Desenvolvimento), Lisbon, Portugal, July 8-14, 2000. Deadline for application: April 1, 2000. More information, web-site: <http://www.biotech.iastate.edu/publications/Bioethics/Institute/Bioethicsinstintro.html> .

The First Joint European/US Bioethics Institute

July 8-14, 2000, Fundacao Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento (FLAD), Lisbon, Portugal. A faculty development workshop designed to assist life science faculty members in integrating discussions of ethical issues into existing science courses. Sessions devoted to ethical theory,

pedagogy, and policy. Particular attention is paid to ethical issues in the marine sciences. Also: environmental ethics, duties to the poor, rights to water and soil, and animal welfare and rights. Funded by FLAD, the US National Science Foundation, the European Union DGXII, Iowa State University Bioethics Program and Office of Biotechnology. Hosts include the University of Lisbon Centro de Biologia Ambiental, and the UL Centro de Filosofia. Deadline for applications: April 1, 2000. More information, website: <http://www.biotech.iastate.edu/publications/Bioethics/Institute/Bioethicsinstintro.html>

Postgraduate Course on Environmental Ethics

The Open University in the UK runs a distance-learning course on environmental ethics (T861 Environmental Ethics), which can be taken alone or counted towards a postgraduate diploma or MSc in Environmental Decision Making. The course runs twice a year, commencing in May or November and involves about 240 hours of study. The course is available throughout the EU, but initially enquiries should be addressed to the Open University's East Midlands Regional Office: The Open University in the East Midlands, The Octagon, 143 Derby Road, Nottingham NG7 1PH, UK, phone + 44 115 9240121, fax + 44 115 941 1750, e-mail: ro5@open.ac.uk

Academic Groups

Centre for Research Ethics, Göteborg University, Sweden

The Centre for Research Ethics (CRE) was established as a non-profit foundation in 1990 by the Royal Society of Art and Sciences in Göteborg. Since 1998 CRE has been a part of Göteborg University and its primary tasks are twofold:

- (1) to conduct research in the area of research ethics (particularly science and values) and to offer training and courses in the ethics of science to scientists, social scientists and students;
- (2) to provide courses for the School of Medicine at Göteborg University and at Chalmers University of Technology.

More information, web-site: <http://www.cre.gu.se/>

The National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT), Norway

NENT's work focuses on four areas of special concern:

- * Biotechnology and genetic engineering;
- * Risk and safety;
- * Environment, sustainability and resource allocation;
- * Information technology, privacy, safety and security issues.

More information, web-site: <http://www.etikkom.no/E/nent.htm>

Social Organizations

Food Standards Agency, UK

Professor Sir John Krebs has been appointed Chairman of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) with Suzi Leather as his deputy. The Chief Executive will be Geoffrey Podger. Professor Krebs is the former Chief Executive of the Natural Environment Research Council and a zoology professor at Oxford University. His top priority before the spring launch of the Agency will be to meet with

consumer representatives and all the other stakeholders, including enforcers and all sectors of the food industry, groups which have worked hard to make the Agency a reality. Suzi Leather has 20 years experience in consumer representation and Geoffrey Podger, a Department of Health civil servant has been Head of the Joint Food Safety and Standards Group (JSFFG) since its inception. More information: Consumer Helpline, in the UK phone 0345 573012, outside the UK phone + 44 20 72386550, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk

Projects

Austrian Institute of Technology Assessment

European Debates on Biotechnology: Dimensions of Public Concern (1999-2000). More information: Helge Torgensen, Institut für Technikfolgen-Abschätzung, Strohgassee 45, 5 A-1030 Vienna, Austria, phone + 43 1 7102510/515816582, fax + 43 1 7109883, e-mail: torg@oeaw.ac.at

Safety Regulation of Transgenic Crop

This two-year EU-funded study, which involved research partners in 10 member states and was coordinated by the Biotechnology Policy Group within the Open University's Centre for Technology Strategy, investigated GM regulation at a time of unprecedented media and public interest. From interviews with key stakeholders, and documentary sources, the researchers examined the regulators' responses and analysed the policy implications. The research findings will shortly be available in the form of an Executive Summary from Mary McVay, Centre for Technology Strategy, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK, phone + 44 1908 53672/652103, fax + 44 1908 652175, e-mail: m.mcvay@open.ac.uk, web-site: <http://www-tec.open.ac.uk/cts/bpg.htm>

Issues

Labelling of GM Food Falls Flat

The Novel-Food-Regulation (EC 258/97) was supplemented in two respects lately. On the one hand, the tolerance level for adventitious contamination of foodstuffs with genetically modified (GM) maize and soya was set to 1%. On the other hand, the labelling of GM additives and flavourings will be compulsory from now on. In spite of these necessary supplements, the labelling of novel foods remains insufficient.

Labelling of GM maize and soya has been a struggle in European politics for several years now. The aim of Commission Regulation EC 49/2000 was to achieve clear regulation for intentional mixing of GM and non-GM maize and soya. This bad habit should be distinguished from the adventitious contamination of food products with GM maize and soya through pollen or processing, transport and storage. The tolerance level was set to 1% of every food ingredient. But even when GM-traces are below 1%, the producer has to prove not having used GM maize or soya intentional. If this prove fails, products should be labelled even when the level of 1% is not reached.

Apart from the question 'who will control it?', food producers should carefully check from where they acquire their raw materials. It stands to reason that this should always be done. So, there is no real improvement for consumers in this. An improvement will be that according to Commission Regulation EC 50/2000 there has to be a safety assessment for food products produced with GM additives and flavourings, which was not compulsory before. Enzymes are not included in this

regulation. Clear guidelines for the use of GM enzymes should also be achieved within a short time.

No improvement can be seen in labelling: a food product (additive, flavouring) should only be labelled as 'genetically modified', if it contains a GM organism. This means that there has to be GM DNA or protein. Since numerous additives and flavourings do not contain DNA or protein, it is not prescribed to label them. A real reformation would be the admission of more sensitive methods to detect traces of GM DNA or protein in food products, e.g. oil from GM soya, which has not to be labelled so far. Controls of food from the supermarket have to be performed regularly.

The problem with labelling of GM foods depends on the different understandings of the term 'genetically modified food'. Definitely, an improvement is needed to give consumers appropriate information, and allow them a free decision in choosing what to buy. More than 90% of German consumers would not buy GM food, if it was clearly labelled. The consultation performed by the German Federal Ministry of Health also showed that consumers wish to include the whole process of food production in labelling (see: <http://www.bmggesundheits.de/themen/forsch/1999/25/ubersi2.htm>). Therefore, the term 'genetically modified food' should be understood in a broader sense. According to the EC Novel-Food Regulation, GM food should be labelled, only if a GM organism is present (i.e. the presence of GM DNA or protein has to be shown). In opposite of this, consumers wish to use the term GM food in the way that labelling should contain information about whether genetic engineering was used in any stage of food production or not. So, consumers are misled through the current practice of labelling, because they do not get the information they want.

References to and concerns about environmental and health-related risk increase, consequently information on product safety should include the production process as well. The impression of not using genetic engineering in products that are not labelled is obviously wrong. Greenpeace estimated that only 10% of all foods produced from GM organisms are labelled. Looking beyond European borders, it is even more difficult to protect consumers' rights. Bad practice of Monsanto and friends led to mixed freight of GM and 'conventional' soya beans. If these beans are used for further processing labelling, will not be necessary. Trifling with European politics and consumer concerns will continue until the Biosafety Protocol can be applied. According to the Biosafety Protocol mixed freights have to be declared as "*could contain living genetically modified organisms*", but the WTO regulation says there is no need for declaration. So, let's wait and hope.

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The OECD Edinburgh Conference on the Scientific and Health Aspects of Genetically Modified Food: GM Food Safety: Facts, Uncertainties, and Assessment

February 28 - March 1, 2000, Edinburgh International Conference Centre. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recently held a major international conference, hosted by the government of the United Kingdom, to review the scientific and health aspects of genetically modified foods. Following the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Montreal and the European Commission's announcement of plans for a European Food Safety Agency, this was a further step in the international debate on the issues raised by genetically modified food. Chaired by Sir John Krebs, Professor of Zoology at Oxford University, the conference heard a wide variety of views from a diverse group of about 400 participants. Scientific experts from both developed and developing countries, from academia, civil society, industry, international organisations, and governments held a dialogue on the safety of GM food. Eminent scientists such as Ismail Seregeldin, Vice President of the World Bank and Chairman of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research; Dr. Suman Sahai, Gene Campaign in India; Dr. Gordon Conway, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, USA; and Professor Bernard Chevassus au Louis, President of the Board of the French Health and Food Safety Agency, sought answers to some of the many questions currently surrounding GM food:

- * What is the state of scientific understanding, and areas of scientific uncertainty, of the genetic modification of food?
- * What are the current trends and future prospects?

- * What are the potential risks and benefits?
- * How can we better understand and ensure the safety of GM food?
- * How do consumers perceive food safety risks?
- * How is GM food safety assessed within existing regulatory frameworks?
- * Is further international co-operation on scientific food safety issues required?

The Chairman's overall report of the Conference will be made available on the OECD website later this month: <http://www.oecd.org/subject/biotech/edinburgh.htm>

Publications & Journals

German Bureau for Technology Assessment

A range of reports published by the German Bureau for Technology Assessment are available free of charge: Functional Food - Funktionelle Lebensmittel (1999, nr.4); Monitoring "Nachwachsende Rohstoffe" - Einsatz nachwachsender Rohstoffe im Wohnungsbau (1999, nr. 61); TA-Projekt "Umwelt und Gesundheit" (1999, nr.63); TA-Monitoring "Xenotransplantation" (1999, nr. 64). More information: Büro für Technikfolgen-Abschätzung beim Deutschen Bundestag (TAB), Neue Schönhauser Straße 10, 10178 Berlin, Germany, phone + 49 30 284910, fax + 49 30 28491119, e-mail: buero@tab.fzk.de, web-site: <http://www.tab.fzk.de>

Hampel, J. & O. Renn (eds.)

Gentechnik in der Öffentlichkeit. Wahrnehmung und Bewertung einer umstrittenen Technologie. Campus, Frankfurt/New York 1999 (DM 78). A book on attitudes towards Genetic Engineering dealing with attitudes towards genetic engineering and their structure, argumentation structures, the evaluation of the social and political control system, media reporting and media reception.

Hodges, J. and I.K. Han (eds.)

Livestock and Quality of Life. CABI Publishing, Wallingford Oxon 2000.

Contents:

1. Hodges, J., *Why Livestock, Ethics and Quality of Life?*;
2. Heap, B.R. & G.C.W. Spencer, *Animal Biotechnology: Convergence of Science, Law and Ethics*;
3. Bruce, D.M. & A. Bruce, *Animal Welfare and Use*;
4. Rollin, B.E., *Agribusiness and Consumer Ethical Concerns over Animal Use and Foods of Animal Origin; the Emergence of New Ethical Thinking in Society*;
5. Comstock, G.L., *An Alternative Ethics for Animals*;
6. Huh, S-H, *Consumer Expectations for Animal Products: Availability, Price, Safety and Quality*;
7. Goulet, D., *Ethics, Culture and Development: Livestock, Poverty and Quality of Rural Life*;
8. Juday, D.M., *Intensification of Agriculture and Free Trade*;
9. Khush, G.S. *et al*, *Livestock, Ethics and Quality of Life in Asia: the Food-Feed Dimension of Grain Demand*;
10. Li-Pun, H. *et al*, *Livestock, Ethics and Quality of Life and Development in Latin America*;
11. Kinoti, G.K., *Livestock, Ethics and Quality of Life and Development in Africa*;
12. Cook, E.D., *The Relationship of Ethics to Livestock and Quality of Life*;
13. Hodges, J., *Community of Life - the Ethical Way Forward*.

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

The publisher of Biosafety News. More information, e-mail: biosafe@icgeb.trieste.it, web-site: <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/biosafety/bsfmail.htm>

Murray, J.D. et al (eds.)

Transgenic Animals in Agriculture. CABI Publishing, Wallingford Oxon 1999.

Contents:

1. Pinkert, C.A. & J.D. Murray, *Transgenic Farm Animals*;
2. Hackett, P.B. *et al*, *Development of Genetic Tools for Transgenic Animals*;
3. Wells, K.D. & R.J. Wall, *One Gene is Not Enough: Transgene Detection, Expression and Control*;
4. Anderson, G.B., *Embryonic Stem Cells in Agricultural Species*;
5. Wilmut, I. *et al*, *Nuclear Transfer in the Production of Transgenic Farm Animals*;
6. Robl, J.M. *et al*, *Embryonic Stem Cell Chimeras and Somatic Cell Nuclear Transplantation for Production of Transgenic Cattle*;
7. Squires, E.J., *Status of Sperm-mediated Delivery Methods for Gene Transfer*;
8. Petite, J.N. *et al*, *Understanding the Origin of Avian Primordial Germ Cells: Implications for Germ Cell Culture and Transgenesis in Poultry*;
9. Wong, E.A. *et al*, *Generation of Transgenic Poultry by Transfection of Primordial Germ Cells*;
10. Pursel, V.G. *et al*, *Expression of Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 in Skeletal Muscle of Transgenic Swine*;
11. Nottle, M.B. *et al*, *Production and Analysis of Transgenic Pigs Containing a Metallothionein Porcine Growth Hormone Gene Construct*;
12. Ward, K.A. *et al*, *The Utilization of Bacterial Genes to Modify Domestic Animal Biochemistry*;
13. Eyestone, W.H., *Production of Transgenic Cattle Expressing a Recombinant Protein in Milk*;
14. Murray, J.D. & E.A. Maga, *Changing the Composition and Properties of Milk*;
15. Dunham, R.A. & R.H. Devlin, *Comparison of Traditional Breeding and Transgenesis on Farmed Fish with Implications for Growth Enhancement and Fitness*;
16. Siewerdt, F. *etal*, *Direct and Correlated Responses to Short-term Selection of 8-week Body Weight in Lines of Transgenic (oMt1a-oGH) Mice*;
17. Mench, J.A., *Ethics, Animal Welfare and Transgenic Farm Animals*;
18. Seidel Jr., G.E., *The Future of Transgenic Farm Animals*.

Swiss Science Technology Council's Online Publications about Biotechnology

- FOP 52/1998 Petitpierre Gilles (dir.), Konzept Umwelt- und Nachhaltigkeitsforschung;
- TA-P 1/1999e Citizen Panel Report Genetic Technology and Nutrition, 4-7 June 1999, Bern.

More information, web-site: <http://www.admin.ch/swr/e/swr.html> .

Vig, N.J. & H. Paschen (eds)

Parliaments and Technology, The Development of Technology Assessment in Europe. State University of New York Press, Albany 2000.

Web Sites

http://www.bio.org/whatsnew/article.html?XP_PUB=breakingnews

Information about food labelling and press releases from the The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), 1625 K Street NW, Suite 1100, Washington DC 20006, USA, phone + 1 202 8570244.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/~geneng>

You can get the text of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that has been adopted on January 30 by the delegates of 128 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The protocol is an international

environmental agreement under the Convention of Biodiversity, which aims to facilitate a proper risk assessment prior to cross-border movements of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) derived from biotechnology. With three main principles the Biosafety Protocol sets new standards in international environmental law. The treaty as it stands now:

- codifies the Precautionary Principle as guiding principle of the decision-making process with respect to the import of so called living modified organisms (LMO);
- subjects the import of certain categories of LMOs to an advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure;
- secures an equal status of its decisions and the provisions of the WTO (source: Genetnl).

EU News

Common Indicators for Local Sustainability

The European Commission is facilitating the development by the local level of a monitoring tool based on common indicators for local sustainability linked to ecological footprinting. This monitoring tool will be put forward for formal adoption on a voluntary basis by European local authorities at the 3rd European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns in Hannover. The project is of relevance to all local authorities that are working towards sustainability. It will provide local authorities with:

- * A practical tool with which to measure impacts of urban activities and monitor progress on Local Agenda 21;
- * An understanding of the performance of their policies in terms of quantitative & qualitative outcomes on the ground.

The project will also complement a number of activities such as:

- * Allowing for the identification of good practice;
- * Providing an evaluation tool serving initiatives such as the European Sustainable City Award Scheme & the Database on Good Practice in Urban Management and Sustainability.

A working group with experts from local, regional & national administrations has been set up under the Expert Group on the Urban Environment to take this activity forward. More information: Susann Pauli, phone + 32 2 2969554, e-mail: Susann.Pauli@dg11.cec.be, web-site: <http://www.sustainable-cities.org>

GM-Foods

The European Commission has formally approved an EU regulation requiring food manufacturers to prove their raw materials come from non-genetically modified stocks and ensure that accidental GM contamination of any ingredient does not exceed 1%. Producers will have to label products as GM if they cannot meet the obligations. Agreed in principle last year and formally adopted now, the regulation sets a threshold above which "adventitious" mixing of GM varieties with unmodified ingredients should be indicated to consumers. The Commission Regulation (EC) nr. 49/2000 of January 10, 2000 amending Council Regulation (EC) nr. 1139/98 concerning the compulsory indication on the labelling of certain foodstuffs produced from genetically modified organisms of particulars other than those provided for in Directive 79/112/EEC 13 is published at web-site: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/2000/l_00620000111en.html

EurSafe

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Newsletter

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