

European Society on Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 2

September 1999

Editorial

This is the second issue of the electronic Newsletter of the European Society on Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe). We happily welcome Erminio Monteleone from Italy as a new co-editor of this newsletter! By the way, we would not mind it when someone from France and/or Eastern Europe joined the editorial staff as well ... This EurSafe Newsletter is to be a network, a flow of information, or rather a quarterly incision in a network understood as an ongoing flow of information. In the long run, such a network will not survive, if the editors continue to be the main or only contributors of information to the newsletter. Hence, we need you all to participate in this network by submitting discussion-papers and information! In the meanwhile, several initiatives have been taken in the wider network of EurSafe: 1) our First European Congress on Agricultural and Food Ethics will crystallize in two Special Issues of the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics - one *Tableau de la Troupe* (by the end of this year) and one on Food Ethics (early 2000), 2) the organization of our Second Congress in Copenhagen, August 2000, is steadily progressing, and 3) we can already see a glimpse of our Third Congress in Italy. So, the focus on agricultural and food ethics at our First Congress is definitely not going to be a *one-off* event. Agricultural and food ethics are here to stay on the European agenda!

Volkert Beekman, Trine Iversen, Kate Millar, Erminio Monteleone, Silke Schicktanz, Raoul Weiler

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EurSafe NEWS

Second European Congress on Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe 2000), 2nd Congress of the European Society on Agricultural and Food Ethics, August 24-26, 2000, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark. The aims of the congress are:

- * 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.

Theme for this Congress *"Two Systems – One World"*:

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

The Organising Committee invites participation by scientists and professionals who approach the conference themes from the perspectives of: environmental ethics, animal ethics, professional ethics, sociological studies, economic analysis, technology assessment etc.

Chairman of Organising Committee: Prof. Peter Sandøe, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark. *Chairman of Scientific Committee:* Dr. Michael J. Reiss, Cambridge University, UK. *Congress information:* Ms. Annelise Ito, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Department of Animal Science and Animal Health, Grønnegårdsvej 8, DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, phone: + 45 3528 3010, fax: + 45 3528 3022, e-mail: ai@kvl.dk, web-site: <http://www.husdyr.kvl.dk/htm/psa/eursafe.htm> . To receive the Second Call for the Conference please return the slip below.

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I would like to receive more information on the 2nd Congress of the European Society on Agricultural and Food Ethics, Copenhagen, August 24-26, 2000:

Name

Position

Institution

Address

Postal code

City

Country

Phone

Fax

E-mail

Homepage

Please type or use printed letters. Send to the secretariat: Att. Annelise Ito, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Dept. of Animal Science and Animal Health, Grønnegårdsvej 8, DK-1870

Frederiksberg C, Denmark.

Conferences

1999 Food and Cancer Prevention III, September 5-8, 1999, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK. Information, e-mail: businessoffice.ifr@bbsrc.ac.uk

The Social Responsibility of Scientists, September 17, 1999, John Innes Centre, Norwich, Norfolk, UK. Speaker: Professor Lewis Wolpert, Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, University College, London. Information: Liam Dolan, e-mail: dolan@bbsrc.ac.uk

Environment across Cultures: International Autumn Symposium, September 21-23, 1999. Organised by the European academy Ltd., Postfach 1460, D-53458 Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, Germany. Information, phone: + 49 2641 754313, fax: + 49 2641 754320, web-site: <http://www.europaeische-akademie-aw.de/tagung/>

Animal Research: Where Does the Buck Stop? Ethics, Economics and Responsibility, October 2-5, 1999, Lake Tahoe, California. Information, e-mail: animalwelfare@ucdavis.edu

Environmental Aesthetics, October 8-10, 1999, Eccles Conference Centre, Utah State University, Logan, Utah USA. Information: Prof. Diane Michelfelder, Department Head, Languages and Philosophy, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0270 USA, e-mail: dmichel@cc.usu.edu, web-site: <http://www.usu.edu/~langphil/eaconf.html>

Potential Long-Time Risks of Genetic Modified Food – Problems, Stock-Tacking and Concepts of Solution, October 15-16, 1999, Darmstadt, Germany. Information: Prof. Dr. Hans Günter Gassen, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Institut für Biochemie, Petersenstrasse 22, D-64287 Darmstadt, Germany, phone: + 49 6151 163657, fax: + 49 6151 165399, e-mail: gassen@pop.tu-darmstadt.de

MAFF Consumer Panel Open Meeting, October 19, 1999, London, UK. The MAFF Consumer Panel is holding its first open meeting to invited people interested in food matters. The meeting will be chaired by the Minister for Food Safety Baroness Hayman. There are around 30 places available and if you wish to register an interest in attending this meeting, contact the Consumer Panel secretariat by October 1, 1999. Information: Mrs J Jewett, Consumer Panel Secretariat, JFSSG, MAFF, Room 306c, Ergon House c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, UK, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk, phone: + 44 171 2385779, fax: + 44 171 2386330.

Sustainable Forestry, October 20-27, 1999, Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria. Exchange of strategies to stop the transformation of forests into monocultures, organized by Youth Environment "Rhodope". Information, e-mail: yeorhodope@nat.bg

The Challenge of Genetic Change in Animal Production, British Society of Animal Science Occasional Meeting, October 26-27, 1999, Edinburgh Research and Innovation Centre, Edinburgh, UK. Information, e-mail: bsas@ed.sac.ac.uk

UK Government Policy on Science, October 29, 1999, John Innes Centre, Norwich, Norfolk, UK. Speaker: Dr Ian Gibson MP, MP for Norwich North. Information: Ray Mathias, phone: + 44 1603 452571.

GRIF'99, Gateway to Renewable Industrial Feedstocks, November 2-3, 1999, John Innes Centre, Norwich, Norfolk, UK. Information, e-mail: info@actin.co.uk, web-site:

http://www.actin.co.uk/about_actin/actin2020/2020e_grif.htm

Communicating Uncertainty - Bridging the Gap Between Science and Society, November 12, 1999, John Innes Centre, Norwich, Norfolk, UK. Information, e-mail: belinda.clark@nrp.org.uk, web-site: <http://www.ifr.bbsrc.ac.uk/latestnews/latestnews0899.html>

European Conference on Emerging Food Science and Technology, November 22-24, 1999, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Information, e-mail: a.f.lerohellec@ato.dlo.nl

Globalisation, Ecology and Economy - Bridging Worlds, November 24-26, 1999, Tilburg, The Netherlands. The European Centre for Nature Conservation and GLOBUS (Institute for Globalisation and Sustainable Development) in cooperation with IUCN and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Information: <http://www.ecnc.nl>

Fresh from the Lab in the Shop Shelves: Gentechnology in Agriculture and Food, November 26-27, 1999, Speyer, Germany. Information: Dr. Katrin Platzer, Evangelische Akademie der Pfalz, Große Himmels-gasse 3, D-67346 Speyer, Germany, phone: + 49 06232 60200, fax: + 49 06232 2537, e-mail: eapflaz@t-online.de, web-site: <http://www.evpfalz.de/akademie/>

Funding Priorities for Applied Ethology in the New Millennium and Open Communications, December 1, 1999, International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE Winter Meeting), Royal Veterinary College, London, UK. Information: Dr Jon Day, ADAS Terrington, Terrington St Clement, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4PW, UK, e-mail: Jon.Day@adas.co.uk, phone: + 44 15523 828621, fax: + 44 1553 827229.

The 20th Annual Ecological Farming Conference, January 19-22, 2000, Asilomar Conference Centre, Pacific Grove, California, USA. Conference Theme: "*Riding the Organic Wave: 20 Years on the Crest of Eco-Agriculture!*", organized by the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture. Information: CSA, 406 Main St., Suite 313, Watsonville, CA 95076, USA, phone: + 1 831 7632111, fax: + 1 831 7632112, web-site: www.csa-efc.org

Fifth World Congress of Bioethics, September 21-24, 2000, Imperial College, London. Details from: The International Association of Bioethics, Centre for Bioethics and Health Law. Information, web-site: <http://www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/ethics/iablplate.htm>

The World Grows Organic, August 28-31, 2000, Frick, Switzerland. IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements). Call for Papers goes until November 15, 1999. Information: Thomas Alfoeldi, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), CH-5070 Frick, Switzerland, e-mail: thomas.aloeldi@fibl.ch

Courses

International Course on Social Aspects of Biotechnology, September 21-24, 1999, Laboratory of Plant Breeding, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands. Invited speakers will give lectures about regulations for field trials and release, environmental risks and risk-assessment, consumer acceptance, marketing of novel foods and ingredients, bio-ethics, patents, biotechnology and sustainable agriculture. As case study the amylopectin-potato and potato-breeding in the Netherlands is presented. One day excursion to AVEBE and KARNA breeding station is included in the programme. PhD students involved in biotechnology research are invited to participate in the international course during the morning-sessions and to join the excursion. Lectures are from 9.00 to 12.30 hrs and one day excursion (lunch and dinner included) on Thursday, September 23. s.

Participation-costs are DFL 250,-. Information: Dr. Marjo de Jeu, phone: + 31 317 482838, e-mail: marjo.dejeu@users.pv.wau.nl

Expert Meeting Intrinsic Value and Moral Obligation, October 29-30, 1999, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Programme:

- * Prof.dr. Robert Heeger & Dr. Frans W.A. Brom (Utrecht University)
Intrinsic Value and Direct Duties: from Animal towards Environmental Ethics?
Comments: Dr. Anders Nordgren (Uppsala University)
- * Prof. dr Peter Schaber (Zurich University)
Moral Relevance of Special Relations and the Relational Concept of Intrinsic Value
Comments: Drs. Mariëtte van de Hoven (Utrecht University)
- * Prof. dr. Albert Musschenga (Free University Amsterdam)
Non-Moral Intrinsic Value of Nature and Moral Obligation
Comments: Prof.dr. Peter Sandoe (Royal Agricultural and Veterinarian University, Copenhagen)

Information: Prof.dr. A.W. Musschenga, Free University Amsterdam, phone + 31 20 4445672/70.

Job Opportunities

University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University Assistant Lecturer. The Department of History and Philosophy of Science intends to appoint a University Assistant Lecturer in the field of history and philosophy of science and medicine. The Department has particular needs in history of medicine before 1800 and in biomedical ethics, but excellent candidates in all areas of history and philosophy of science and medicine are welcome to apply. The successful candidate will be expected to take up the position at an agreed date on or before 1 October 2000. The appointment will be for three years, with the possibility of reappointment for two years. The statutory limit of tenure of a University Assistant Lecturer is five years, but all holders of the office of University Assistant Lecturer are considered for appointment to the office of University Lecturer during the course of their tenure. The pensionable scale of stipend for a University Assistant Lecturer is 16,655 pounds a year, rising by six annual increments to 21,815 pounds (under review). Applications, including a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, details of teaching experience and two samples of recent work, should be sent to the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH (Tel: +44 1223 334540; Fax: +44 1223 334554; E-mail: th10001@hermes.cam.ac.uk) from who further particulars may be obtained. Informal inquiries by email are welcome and further information can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk>. Applicants are themselves requested to ask for three referees to send references to the Secretary by the closing date. Candidates who have been shortlisted will be informed in early November and will be invited to the Department on 25 and 26 November to present seminar papers and for interview. The closing date for applications is 15 September 1999. The University follows an equal opportunity policy and has a policy on arrangements for part-time work.

University of Groningen, Department of Philosophy/Centre for Development Studies, University Lecturer (half time). The Department of Philosophy of the University of Groningen, in cooperation with the Centre for Development Studies, The Netherlands, looks for candidates who would like to develop and conduct the education and research project "State, Society and Development". Tasks:

- * To develop a course on state, society and development in which philosophical, political-economic, historical and cultural aspects of the theme are addressed. Philosophical and social-political theories should be the basis of this course, with complementary discussions of development issues such as democracy, good governance, the informal economy, and the role of NGO's.
- * To give philosophical support in developing an interdisciplinary research-programme on the issue of state, society and development. Cooperation with institutions in Third World countries is an objective of this programme.

The University Lecturer will be appointed at the Department of Philosophy, and participate in the Centre for Development Studies. He or she will get a half-time appointment for two years, with possibilities for reappointment. More information: Dr. J.A. Harbers, Phone + 31 50 3636155/6161, Email: j.a.harbers@philos.rug.nl

Academic Groups

Centre for Applied Ethics, School of English, Communications and Philosophy, Cardiff University, PO Box 94, Cardiff, CF1 3XB, United Kingdom, phone: + 44 1222 874935, fax: + 44 1222 874618, web-site: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/uwcc/encap/sections/cae>

Centre for Food Economics Research (CeFER), Department of Agricultural and Food Economics, The University of Reading, PO Box 237, Reading RG6 6AR, UK. For further information please contact the Director: Dr Spencer Henson, phone: + 44 118 9316775, fax: + 44 118 9756467, e-mail: s.j.henson@rdg.ac.uk

European Federation of Biotechnology, Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology, Schuytstraat 12, 2517 XE The Hague, The Netherlands, phone & fax: + 31 70 3653857, e-mail: efb.cbc@stm.tudelft.nl, web-site: <http://www.kluyver.stm.tudelft.nl/efb/home.htm>

Institute of Food Research, Norwich Research Park, Colney, Norwich, NR4 7UA, United Kingdom, phone: + 44 1603 255000, fax: + 44 1603 507723, web-site: <http://ifr.bbsrc.ac.uk>

Social Organizations

Danish Council of Ethics, Det Etske RDd, Ravnsborggade 2-4, 2200 Krbenhavn, Denmark, phone: + 45 3537 5833, fax: + 45 3537 5755, web-site: <http://www.etiskraad.dk/english/english/htm>

Ethical Council Concerning Animals, Danish Ministry of Justice, Slotsholmsgade 10, DK-1216 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), an independent non-profit association that launched a hotline on European food safety in June 1999. A group of experts are available to answer questions from citizens and interests involved in the food chain. Information, phone: + 322 548 98 20, fax: + 322 548 04 99, e-mail: info@ecas.org

European Food Information Council, 1 Place des Pyramides, 75001 Paris, France, phone: + 33 1 4020 4440, fax: + 33 1 4020 4441, e-mail: eufic@eufic.org, web-site: <http://62.8.20.57>

Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7NF, United Kingdom, phone: + 44 181 330 8032, fax: + 44 181 335 4274, web-site: <http://www.maff.gov.uk/inf/newsrel/fawc/fawc-ix.htm>

Joint Food Safety and Standards Group (JFSSG), MAFF, Room 306c, Ergon House c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, United Kingdom, phone: + 44 171 2385957, fax: + 44 171 238 6330, web-site: http://www.maff.gov.uk/inf/newsrel/fsa/fsa_ix.htm

National Consultative Ethics Committee for Health and Life Sciences, 71 Rue Saint-Dominique, 75007 Paris, France, phone: + 33 014442 4852/53, fax: + 33 014442 4848, e-mail: contact@ccne-ethique.org, web-site: http://www.ccne-ethique.org/ccne_ang

The Organic Federation of Australia, recently decided to press for a domestic Australian standard for organic produce as a priority. There are currently only enforceable standards for exported produce. Information, e-mail: ofa@netspace.net.au

Zero, Association of Consumers Maintaining their Integrity with their Income, works on scientific arguments for managing the costs of living to maintain the integrity of human nature. They also do projects introduce this vision in a free market economy. Information: ZERO, Wim A. de Bruyn, 45 rue Alfred Giron, 1050 Brussels, Belgium, phone: + 32 2 648 56 95, e-mail: WdeBruyn@mail.dma.be, web-site: <http://freezone.exmachina.net/ZERO>

Projects

Consumer Concerns about Animal Welfare and the Impact on Food Choice, this three year project funded by the EU explores the nature and level of consumer concerns about animal welfare in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Italy and France. Specifically it addresses:

- * The specific concerns that consumers have about current methods of animal production;
- * The reasons for consumer concerns about animal welfare;
- * The impact of concerns about animal welfare on food product choice.

The project is coordinated by Dr Spencer Henson at the Centre for Food Economics Research (CeFER) in the Department of Agricultural and Food Economics, The University of Reading, UK. Information: Spencer Henson, The University of Reading, PO Box 237, Reading RG6 6AR, UK, phone: + 44 118 9316775, fax: + 44 118 9756467, e-mail: s.j.henson@rdg.ac.uk

Consumer Policy, a White Paper on consumer policy is being prepared by the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to look at how the consumer voice can be best heard. A review of the National Consumer Council and the activities of the Scottish and Welsh Consumer Councils and Consumers in Europe Group will be fed into the White Paper. The review of these consumer bodies is being undertaken by Compass Partnership. Information: Stephen Hadrill, phone: + 44 171 215 5000.

European Network of Documentation for Ethics of Biotechnology, Food and Environment (ENDEBIT). In the near future the number of registered documents will increase considerably and the quality of our services will improve. Assisted by the European Commission, the Centre for Ethics is preparing a "European Network of Documentation for Ethics of Biotechnology, Food and Environment" (ENDEBIT). ENDEBIT will set up a reference data base via internet. It will register literature that deals with the ethics of biotechnology, food and environment, with bibliographical descriptions and keywords. Additional services like photocopying, mailing of articles, production of expertises or scope notes will be offered. An essential prerequisite to the documentation is the development of a thesaurus for the ethics of biotechnology. A thesaurus is a hierarchically structured system of headwords. A subject index of this kind is an indispensable basis for a register that aims to provide quick access to literature that is scattered throughout different places and almost impossible to survey. The ethical discussion on the use of biotechnology has become so diverse that there is a compelling need for an efficient and comprehensive register of relevant literature. In the field of bioethics, the only thesaurus that exists so far is the thesaurus of the medico-ethically oriented

BIOETHICSLINE in the USA, which was expanded for European users by the Academy for Ethics in Medicine in Göttingen (EUROETHICS). The thesaurus project, intended to be carried out by the Centre for Ethics, complements the BIOETHICSLINE/EUROETHICS thesaurus by covering the area of the ethics of biotechnology. Thus, together the two thesauri will cover the whole field of ethics in the biological sciences and medicine.

Ethics of biotechnology? Since the beginning, the development and application of biotechnology has been accompanied by discussions concerning the safety of its application, its possible social and legal consequences, its effects on health, and its ethical evaluation. At least since the mid-1980s, extensive research literature on these matters has been published. Thus the ethical discussion has not only dealt with questions concerning biomedicine but also with questions arising from the application of biotechnology on non-human beings and other biological matter, i.e. questions concerning ethics of biotechnology in general. Researchers, politicians, and the public have been confronted with the multidisciplinary nature of the discourse as well as with its necessarily international dimension, aspects which continue to be of special importance within the European Union.

Preliminary work. In 1997 the Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities analyzed in a pilot study the demand for a documentation of the ethics of biotechnology. The profile of the documentation was outlined, taking the results of an opinion poll into account. The project was funded by the European Commission. Additional support came from the government of Baden-Württemberg. The main result of this analysis was that only 24% of those questioned were content with the present situation. The lack of a central documentation agency, the insufficient accessibility of literature on specific topics and the lack of an adequate data base were the most frequently mentioned problems. There is great demand for a data base on the ethics of biotechnology which allows for easy access to the extremely diversified store of research literature relevant to the entire complex of issues. Such a database would facilitate ethical research activities. The preliminary work is being continued with support from the government of Baden-Württemberg.

Access to information. At present it is very difficult to obtain a comprehensive survey of literature on the ethics of biotechnology, food, agriculture and the environment. The existing information sources only make references to certain disciplines or topics; certain sources give one-sided information. A central information agency is needed that takes the complexity, interdisciplinarity, plurality, and internationality of discourse on the ethics of biotechnology, food, agriculture, and the environment into account. Existing data bases like BIOETHICSLINE, ETHMED and EUROETHICS collect literature on medical ethics. Ethical questions of biotechnology and genetic engineering in animal and plant breeding, agriculture and nutrition, environmental protection, sustainable development and activities in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry are only treated marginally. ENDEBIT will close this gap in co-operation with the already existing data base on biomedical ethics, EUROETHICS.

The way to ENDEBIT. In response to this situation, several European organisations coordinated by the Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities in Tübingen have decided to establish a European on-line internet data base for ethical, social, and legal questions of biotechnology in cooperation with the already existing biomedical ethics data base EUROETHICS. ENDEBIT will include relevant European literature in six languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Dutch. To implement ENDEBIT, several steps are necessary, such as the development of the thesaurus entitled "*Ethics of biotechnology*" and the establishment of rules for the systematic registration of relevant literature. The project's partners will document the literature written in their language as well as invest their specific scientific competence in the development of the thesaurus. Thus, the "*European Network of Documentation for Ethics of Biotechnology, Food and Environment*" shall become a central information source for European research on ethics and will provide an essential prerequisite for the growth of a European and multidisciplinary understanding of ethical, social, and legal questions of biotechnology.

Information: Interfaculty Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities, European Network of Documentation for Ethics of Biotechnology, Keplerstraße 17, D-72074 Tübingen, phone: + 49 7071 2977985, fax: + 49 7071 295255, e-mail: zew.dokumentation@uni-tuebingen.de . **Directors:** Prof. Dr. Eve-Marie Engels (eve-marie.engels@uni-tuebingen.de) & Prof. Dr. Dietmar Mieth. **Scientific Coordination:** Dipl.-Biol. Frank Meixner. **Cooperation Partners:** *Institut National de la*

Recherche Agronomique (INRA), Secrétariat Direction Information et Communication, Marie-Françoise Chevallier Le-Guyader, directeur, 147 rue de l'Université, 75338 Paris Cedex 07, France, phone: + 33 1 42759194, fax: + 33 1 42759172, e-mail: litadier@paris.inra.fr, web-site: <http://www.inra.fr> . *Centro per l'Educazione, la Ricerca e l'Informazione su Scienza e Società (CERISS)*, Prof. Dr. Fabio Terragni/Marina Tassara/Maria Chiara Tallacchini, via Andegari 18, I-20121 Milano, Italy, phone: + 39 02 863090/70000131, fax: + 39 02 863090, e-mail: ceriss@tin.it . *Sheffield Institute for Biotechnological Law and Ethics (SIBLE)*, Prof. Dr. Deryck Beyliefeld/Dr. Julian Kinderlerer, Crookesmoor Building, Conduit Road, PO Box 594, Sheffield, GB-S10 1FL, UK, phone: + 44 114 2226716, fax: + 44 114 2226832, e-mail: D.Beyliefeld@sheffield.ac.uk, J.Kinderlerer@sheffield.ac.uk, web-site: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/sible/sible.html> . *Ökomeedia online*, Jan Hodel, OekoDok - Archiv fuer Oekologie-Information, Baeumleingasse 22, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland, phone: + 41 61 2051010, fax: + 41 61 2711010, e-mail: jan.hodel@oekomeedia.org, web-site: <http://www.oekomeedia.org> . *Centre for Bioethics and Health Law*, Prof. Egbert Schrotten, University of Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 2, NL-3508 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands, phone: + 31 30 2534399, fax: + 31 30 2539410, e-mail: cbg@theo.uu.nl . *Hochschule für Bibliotheks-und Informationswesen (HBI)*, Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Askan Blum, University of Applied Sciences, Wolframstrasse 32, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany, phone: + 49 711 2570633, fax: + 49 711 2570647, e-mail: Blum@hbi-stuttgart.de, web-site: <http://www.hbi-stuttgart.de>

Publications & Journals

Biotechnology and Development Monitor, a publication of the Department of Political Science of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It is quarterly journal and available free-of-charge. It provides a lot of information on biotechnology, agriculture, international politics in agriculture, food market and so on. Information: Nicolette Schmidt, Biotechnology and Development Monitor, University of Amsterdam, Department of Political Science, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 237, 1012 DL Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Code of Practice for the Consumer Panel, published by Joint Food Safety and Standards Group, London, UK, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk, phone: + 44 171 238 5779, fax: + 44 171 238 6330.

Consumer Panel Annual Report 1998, published by Joint Food Safety and Standards Group, London, UK, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk, phone: + 44 171 238 5779, fax: + 44 171 238 6330.

Drug Use in Farm Animals, published June 1999 by the Food Ethics Council, Southwell, Notts, UK, cost £10, phone: + 44 1636 812622.

Eurofood Monitor, provides the full, consolidated texts of EU food legislation, directives and amendments. There is also a journal called EU FOOD LAW, published monthly. Information: Agra Europe Ltd., 80 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UN, UK. For prices see also: <http://www.agra-food-news.com>

Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) 1998 Annual Review, available free from The FAWC, Surbiton, Surrey, UK, phone: + 44 181 330 8031.

Food Ethics Review, a new international journal for all who are involved with food at a professional level. It suggests to serve an essential forum for ideas and discussions on ethical and moral issues in relation to food. Issues will be published quarterly, starting in March 2000. Editor: Ralph Early, Harper Adams University College, Newport, Shropshire TF108NB, UK. For prices see also: <http://www.blackwell-science.com>

Genetically Modified Crops: Ethical and Social Issues, edited by the Nuffield Council on

Bioethics, UK (1999). The full report is available on the web:
<http://www.nuffield.org/bioethics/publication/modifiedcrops/index.html>

Genetically Modified Foods - Update (CP(99)37/3), published 1999 for the MAFF Consumer Panel by the Joint Food Safety and Standards Group, London, UK, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk, phone: + 44 171 238 5779, fax: + 44 171 238 6330.

GM Foods and the Consumer (CP(99)37/4), paper prepared by Consumer Panel member John Godfrey in 1999 and published by the Joint Food Safety and Standards Group, London, UK, e-mail: consumer@info.maff.gov.uk, phone: + 44 171 238 5779, fax: + 44 171 238 6330.

Organic Farming and Gene Transfer from Genetically Modified Crops, published June 1999 by the John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK, phone: + 44 1603 452571.

Public Opinion about Biotechnology: a Survey of Surveys, by Anneke Hamstra and published 1998 by the European Federation of Biotechnology, Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology, The Netherlands, phone & fax: + 31 70 3653857, e-mail: efb.cbc@stm.tudelft.nl

A Sustainable Food Supply Chain - a Swedish Case Study, published 1999 by the Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen, Denmark, phone: + 45 3396 0200, e-mail: cecilia@livsmedelssverige.org

Web Sites

<http://www.cgiar.org/isnar/fora/biotech>, on biotechnology and safety aspects.

<http://www.vm.cfsan.fda.gov/>, US Food and Drug Administration, Centre for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

<http://www.biosafety.ihe.be/>, Belgian Biosafety server.

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory>

EU News

Administrative Council of the European Patent Office amends implementing Regulations to the European Patent Convention - "Biotechnological Inventions", June 16, 1999, the Administrative Council of the European Patent Office adopted a far-reaching decision concerning the protection of plant biotechnological innovations. According to the decision, the Directive 98/44/EC on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions, adopted by the European Union on July 6, 1998, shall be used by the European Patent Office as a "*supplementary means of interpretation*". The decision might imply that, notwithstanding the exclusion of plant varieties and animal races from patentability (Art. 53 b European Patent Convention), the European Patent Office will as of September 1, 1999, accept claims relating to plants and animals (irrespective of whether they embrace plant or animal varieties) "*if the technical feasibility of the invention is not confined to a particular plant or animal variety*" (source: e-mail by Dan Leskien, European Coordination, Friends of the Earth, July 29, 1999). Information: http://www.european-patent-office.org/epo/ca/e/16_06_99_impl_e.htm

EurSafe

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