



Board Report 2010/11

Annual General Meeting

Angelika Hilbeck

Chairperson

Caen, 26 March 2011

1) Board meetings and phone conferences

- Preparing the Nagoya events
- Phone calls between coordination and board members

2) Events at which (board) members have represented or promoted ENSSER

- **September 15, 2010: GMO-Free Regions Conference**
Brussels, Christian Velot presented ENSSER
- **September 29, 2010: NGO Consultation on EFSA Guidance**
Parma, Ricarda Steinbrecher discussed comments on EFSA Guidance
- **October 20, 2010: Launch of the International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity at COP-10**
Nagoya, Hartmut Meyer presented ENSSER
- **January 12, 2011: GMO risk evaluation - A contradictory debate**
Brussels, Angelika Hilbeck & Gilles-Eric Séralini, commenting on EFSA GMP ERA Guidance and GM food&feed RA Guidance

2) Events at which (board) members have represented or promoted ENSSER

- **February 4-5, 2011: 2nd Science and Democracy World Forum**
Dakar, Hartmut Meyer presented ENSSER & lecture „Genetic Engineering & Independent Research / Corporate Control vs. Democratic Legitimacy“
- **March 17, 2011: GMO risk assessment and management**
Brussels, András Székács participated as observer

Scientific Conference & Citizen Forum



Scientific Conference Advancing the Understanding of Biosafety

Social Sustainability and Biological Safety Scientific Findings

European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility (ENSSEER)

Third World Network (TWN)

Federation of German Scientists
(Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler, VDW)

07 - 09 October 2010
Nagoya / Japan

COP10パートナーシップ事業 市民フォーラム「社会的持続性と生態系リスクを考える」

2010年10月9日(土) 午後

名古屋大学IB電子情報館(裏面の地図参照)

入場無料/日本語同時通訳つき

趣旨: COP10/MOP5が名古屋で開催されるに際して、市民が生物多様性の理解を深めるために、その3つの要素である生態系の多様性、種の多様性、遺伝子の多様性を、地球生命体全体および都市システムのバランスをも考えて位置づけ、国内外の各界で活躍されている種々の異なる立場の方々にご登壇いただき、広く社会的持続性と生態系リスクとしてとらえ、その上で、COP10/MOP5の意義についても議論する場とするものです。

総合司会: 新海洋子

| 開会と講演 | |
|--------------|---|
| 15:30 | オープニング 黒田大三郎(環境省参事、COP10支援実行委員会アドバイザー) |
| 15:40 | 来賓メッセージ アーメド・ジョグラフィ Ahmed Djoghlat(生物多様性条約事務局) |
| 15:55 | テーマ導入講演: 生きている地球のバランスと、生物多様性 林良嗣(名古屋大学教授、COP10支援実行委員会アドバイザー) |
| 16:10 | 基調講演: COP10/MOP5で期待される日本の役割 クリスティーネ・フォン・ワイツゼッカー Christine von Weizsäcker(ドイツ科学者協会) |
| 16:40 | 報告: バイオセーフティに関する科学的知見とMOP5へのメッセージ ハートムート・マイヤー Hartmut Meyer(環境と社会的責任のための欧州科学者ネットワーク) |
| 17:00 | (休憩) |
| パネル・ディスカッション | |
| 17:15 | コーディネーター 伊藤智章(朝日新聞論説委員)(調整中) 新海洋子(環境省中部環境パートナーシップオフィス) パネリスト 渡邊和男(筑波大学大学院生命環境科学研究科教授) 百瀬剛子(ユニ株式会社環境社会貢献部長) アントニオ・トゥレント・フェルナンデス Antonio Turrent Fernández(メキシコ国立農林畜産研究所教授) クリスティーネ・フォン・ワイツゼッカー Christine von Weizsäcker(ドイツ科学者協会) |
| 18:20 | クロージング 加藤正嗣(COP10支援実行委員会アドバイザー) |

| 主催 | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 環境と社会的責任のための欧州科学者ネットワーク(ENSSEER) | http://www.ensser.org/ |
| 第三世界ネットワーク(TWN, マレーシア) | http://www.twinside.org.sg/ |
| ドイツ科学者協会(VDW, ドイツ) | http://www.vdw-ev.de/ |
| 後援 | |
| 欧州環境庁(EEA, デンマーク) | http://www.eea.europa.eu/ |
| 地球的责任のための技術者・科学者国際ネットワーク(INES) | http://www.inesglobal.com/ |
| 社会に開く科学者同盟(UCCS, メキシコ) | http://www.unionccs.net/ |
| 名古屋大学大学院環境学研究科(NU-GSES) | http://www.env.nagoya-u.ac.jp/ |
| なごや環境大学 | http://www.n.kd.jp/ |

¹ このシンポジウムで行われる発表と議論は、欧州環境庁ならびにその運営機関、その他いかなる欧州共同体の見解も反映するものではありません。

ALDE Seminar



LIBERALS... DEMOCRATS Seminar
co-organised by ALDE MEPs
Gisèle LEPAGE and George LYON

Risk evaluation of GMOs

L'Évaluation des risques des OGM

Debate between EFSA and non-EFSA scientists
with the participation of Commissioner John Dalli

Wednesday 13th January 2011
14:30-18:00
PHS 7 C 50

For information and access tickets, please send complete name and date of birth to:
alldes@ec.europa.eu



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Commissioner John Dalli

Re: the direction of the GMO debate in Europe

14 March 2011

Dear Commissioner Dalli,

I write to you on behalf of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI), a world-wide initiative of public sector scientists active in modern biotechnology research for the common good. I follow up on the seminar "The risk evaluation of GMOs - A contradictory debate", organised by MEPs Lepage and Lyon on 12 January last, in which you called for an active participation of all stakeholders.

PRRI on Dalli:

A related and regrettable trend is that in reaction to claims about hypothetical risks, politicians often quickly ask for more testing. Particularly troubling was your [Commissioner Dalli] suggestion on 12 January, that “when tests can be done, they should be done”. This is not sensible - tests should only be asked if they are needed, and not merely because they can be done. Tests in this area cost much money and time and the current regulations have already put an incredible and unnecessary burden on biotechnology.

PRRI on EFSA:

We note with regret that the recent changes in EFSA guidance also seem to be abandoning the well founded “tiered approach” for an approach of asking more data as a standard requirement. There is no scientific reason for this, because there is nothing inherently dangerous about the technique of genetic modification itself. Requesting unnecessary information is not in the interest of safety, on the contrary.

PRRI on Lepage:

Another disconcerting trend is the way in which the independence of scientists such as the EFSA members is questioned. MEP Lepage's statement about "the cancer of conflict of interests" in connection to EFSA was unfounded and distasteful. What is important is whether a claim about safety or risks can be independently verified, and not one's suspicion of the motive of the person making the claim.

PRRI on Hilbeck and Séralini:

The two scientists invited to comment on EFSA guidance and opinions, came with criticisms about EFSA's approach that would not stand the test of proper peer review.

- fundamental flaw in this claim
- fundamental lack of understanding on several fronts



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Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, Chairperson

Berlin, 18 March 2011

Dear Sirs/ Mms

Thank you for informing us about your letter to Commissioner Dalli, received 16 March 2011. Within you express your views about the content of the presentations and discussions by two of our members, Prof. Gilles-Eric Seralini and Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, during a public event 'Risk Evaluation of GMOs - a contradictory debate' organized by ALDE and hosted by MEPs Corinne Lepage and George Lyon, January 12th, 2011¹.

Indeed, there is scientific disagreement on a number of issues regarding the risk assessment of GMOs (including how and what to include in the assessment of agro-ecological adverse effects resulting from the resistance evolution among the target organisms, and the loss of the target effect of the GM technology). Part of this scientific disagreement stems from what Dr. Hilbeck said when asked for evidence of damage: "It depends how you define damage."

We regret that you failed to raise this issue and to put forward your opinions during the public event that triggered your written response in the first place. As we feel open, transparent discussion leads to the most productive outcomes, we find it regrettable that PRRI does not seem to share this view, and has instead chosen this exclusive communication as a means of expressing its viewpoints.

3) Issues & projects brought forward



- Funding for Nagoya events can cover 100% of the expenses and 56% of the ENSSEER work costs
- Scientific Conference & Citizen Forum in Nagoya
- Side event at MOP-5
- Various activities concerning the reform of the EU GMO risk assessment
- Contribution to FP-7 project "GM crops in the EU - systematically assessing environmental and economic impacts"
- Project proposal „Intellectual Property Rights and Research Restriction"

3) Issues & projects brought forward



- ENSSER submits comments on the EFSA Guidance for GMP ERA, major concerted effort of many members
- ENSSER submits comments to the SCBD on CPB Roadmap on GMO risk assessment
- ENSSER submits information to the SCBD on socioeconomic considerations in GMO decision making and registers for online discussion forum
- Support of the campaign for Gilles-Eric Séralini, collecting signatures and contribution to the „support day“

3) Issues & projects brought forward



In respect of scientific controversy and contradictory expertise

Support to Gilles-Eric Séralini and his co-authors

March 2010

The discourse between researchers within the scientific community is a key driver of knowledge construction. To be recognized as valid, a result should resist all fair attempts of invalidation by colleagues.

Furthermore, when scientific studies have important social, health, economic and political consequences, a scientific discourse with pluralistic expertise becomes even more essential for a well-functioning democracy. Yet, when certain scientific perspectives are systematically excluded from this discourse, how can we be assured of good policy outcomes?

- We received around 10,000 signatures from the public and around 1,000 signatures from scientists
- Scientists came from more than 30 countries

4) ENSSER work

Current work:

- web page
- scientific publications on the EU GMP ERA concepts and “rebuttal of GE myths”
- cooperation for conference & workshop at MOP-6 / COP-11 in India 2012

For excellent cooperation special thanks to:

- ENSSER Office
- the FPH and the various funders for the Nagoya events