

Under the auspices of the Aarhus Convention

International meeting on good practices regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs

19-20 May 2008, Renaissance Hotel, Cologne, Germany

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

Chair: Helmut Gaugitsch (Austria)
Former Chair of the Aarhus Convention Working Group on GMOs

Monday, 19 May 2008

10:00 **Welcome by the Chair**

10:10 **The Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and their requirements regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs**

1. Veit Koester, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, former Chair of the first part of the negotiations to develop the Cartagena Protocol
2. Erie Tamale, Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The presenters will each be invited to speak for up to ten minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

10:35 **Access to information, including labeling, with respect to GMOs**

Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to information

Plenary presentations

1. Aida Iskoyan, Ministry of Nature Protection, Armenia (*to be confirmed*)
2. Johansen Voker, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia
3. Serhiy Vykhryst, European Eco Forum

The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.15 Small group discussions

- 12:15 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions
- 12.30 ***Exchanges of good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to information***
- Plenary presentations
1. Dr. Michael De Shield, Director, Belize Agricultural Health Authority
 2. Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Project Manager, UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity For Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House
 3. Dr. Nevena Alexandrova, Head of the Bulgarian Biotechnology Information Center, Agrobiointitute
 4. Piet van der Meer, Independent Consultant, Horizon sprl
- The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 15:00 Small group discussions
- 16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:15 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions
- 16:30 **Public participation with respect to decisions on GMOs (deliberate release, placing on the market)**
- Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation***
- Plenary presentations
1. Dr. Katalin Rodics, Head of the Biodiversity Unit, Ministry of Environment and Water, Hungary
 2. Dr. Dayuan Xue, Ministry of Environment, China
 3. Ms. Andrijana Slavkovska, Center for Environmental Research and Information “Eco sense”, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 16.55 Small group discussions
- 18:00 *End of first day*
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Tuesday, 20 May 2008

- 09:00 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions
- 09:20 ***Exchanges of good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation***
- Plenary presentations
1. Mona Aarhus, Ministry of Environment, Norway
 2. Eleftheria Nearchou, Biotechnology and Plant Health Policy Officer, Directorate General SANCO, European Commission
 3. Dr. Jonathan Kissling, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
 4. Geert Ritsema, Greenpeace International GE Campaigner
- The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 09:50 Small group discussions
- 11.00 *Coffee break*
- 11:15 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions
- 11:35 **Access to justice with respect to GMOs**
- Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to justice and exchanges of good practices to address them***
- Plenary presentations
1. Maud Istasse, Ministry for Environment, Belgium
 2. Julian Kinderlerer, Professor of Biotechnology and Society, Technology University, Delft, Netherlands
 3. Maria Rita Reis, Terra de Dereitos, Brazil
- The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 12.00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 Small group discussions
- 15:15 *Coffee break*

15.30 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions

15.50 **Future priorities and challenges**

Panel discussion by prominent experts from a variety of perspectives, including governments, international organizations, NGOs, academia or business

1. Dr. Angela Lozan, Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources, Moldova
2. Dr. Ossama El Tayeb, Scientific Advisor
Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Egypt
3. Dr. George Tzotzos, Senior Industrial Development Officer,
Biotechnology Programme, United Nations Industrial Development
Organization
4. Representative of Global Industry Coalition (*to be confirmed*)
5. Juan Lopez, GMO Campaigner, Friends of the Earth International

The panelists will each be invited to speak for up to five minutes, followed by a discussion amongst the panelists and questions and comments from participants.

16:50 Evaluation of meeting by participants

17:00 The Chair will close the meeting.