

The European GMO-free Regions Network was born as a response to the European Commission Recommendation of July 2003 on Guidelines for the development of national strategies and best practices to ensure the coexistence of genetically modified crops with conventional and organic farming.

In order to draw up this Recommendation, the Commission took into account that farm and field sizes, production systems, crop rotations and cropping patterns, as well as natural and climatic conditions vary enormously across Europe. Therefore, the Commission admitted that these different regional aspects should be taken into account when applying the precautionary principle, or in other words, when evaluating on a "case by case" basis the risk of admixture between GM and non-GM crops. However, although the Commission states that certain strategies only make sense at a regional level, in practice nowadays the European legal framework allows neither for a regional implementation of that authority nor for the full freedom of choice in a situation of coexistence between GM and non-GM crops.

Since its creation the Network has held five conferences in which various subjects have been considered, but all of them have dealt with the regions' claim to have a regional scale decision-making on coexistence.

Throughout this last year a series of relevant Network events and activities have taken place. For example, in December 2007 we held our conference on non-genetically modified feed and, more recently, we had the German Parliament's decision to authorise the labelling of products as OGM-free.

These actions are fully consistent with the principles that inspired the creation of our regional network – namely, to assure the absence of genetic contamination from crops and to guarantee regions' freedom of choice in what to cultivate.

The VIth Conference will deal with these two fundamental subjects in order to put forward future actions that will continue in the same direction, and in particular to encourage the agro-food industry to use the OGM-free labelling.

Also, as a network of regions that have chosen a model of agriculture based on quality, it is the appropriate time to reflect on the insertion of our regional policies in the framework of the post "health-check" Common Agricultural Policy (COM (2007) 722 final).

INFORMATION  
[www.gmofree-euregions.net](http://www.gmofree-euregions.net)

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08 Bilbao



Euskalduna Palace  
24 - 25 April

VI<sup>th</sup> conference  
of the GMO-free  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONS  
NETWORK



9:00-9:30

Opening session and Welcome

Juan José Ibarretxe  
Susana CenniPresident of Euskadi  
President of the Network and Regional Minister  
for Agriculture of Toscana

9:30-13:30

**Session 1**

Freedom of choice: Approaches for a consistent and fully protection of conventional and organic agriculture

Chairperson: Joseph Stockinger, Regional Minister for Agriculture of Upper Austria

9:30

Introductory Remarks

Joseph Stockinger

Regional Government  
OBERÖSTERREICH

9:40

Regulatory experiences:  
The Italian approach

Daniel Schatzer

Regional Government  
BOLZANO

10:00

Coexistence in Portugal

Paula Carvalho

Ministry of Agriculture  
PORTUGAL

10:20

The Canary strategy in  
the agro-food sector

Guillermo Diaz

Regional Government  
CANARY ISLANDS

10:40

Coffee break

11:10

The French Moratorium?

Claude Trémouille

Regional Government  
LIMOUSIN

11:30

Coexistence in Europe:  
overview and perspectives

Fabio Boscaleri

Regional Government  
TOSCANA

11:50

Protection of seed:  
The REVERSE ProjectAngela Mallaroni  
& Erios HugoBio d'Aquitaine & Frontaliza  
AQUITANIE

12:10

Non-OGM feed,  
a strategic asset for  
European agriculture

Pascale Loget

Regional Government  
BRETAGNE

12:30

Discussion and conclusions

13:30

Lunch break

**Sesión 2**

Freedom of choice: Towards a common label for GMO-free food products

Chairperson: Martin Ascacibar, Directorate for the Innovation and Technological Development,  
Basque Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

15:00

Introductory Remarks

Martin Ascacibar

Regional Government  
EUSKADI

15:10

Labelling:  
Including the new German  
regulation on positive labelling

Rudi Anschober

Regional Government  
OBERÖSTERREICH

15:30

GMO-free labelling.  
The view of the consumers

David M. Ortega

OCU  
Spanish Organization of  
Consumers and Users

15:50

Exercising freedom of choice:  
The need for good  
information

Cinta Barrachina

CECU  
Spanish Confederation of  
Consumers and Users

16:10

Coffee break

16:40

GMO: COOP position and  
guarantee system

Sonia Scaramagli

COOP  
Italia

17:00

GMO-free labelling.  
The view of the farmers

Andoni García Arriola

COAG  
COAG Coordinator of Spanish  
Organisations of Farmers and  
Cattle dealers

17:20

The labelling of ecological products  
as a tool for quality.  
Experience in Asturias

Enrique Rodríguez

Regional Government  
ASTURIAS

17:40

Products of Origin and the GMO

Alain Fauconnier

AREPO  
Association of the European  
Regions for Products of Origin

18:00

Discussion and conclusions

9:00-10:00

New organization of the Network  
Member Regions' MEETING**Sesión 3**

Political strategies

Chairperson: Susana Cenni, Susanna Cenni, Regional Minister for Agriculture  
and Forest of Toscana

10:00

Introductory Remarks

Susanna Cenni

Regional Government/  
TOSCANA

10:10

The post "health-check" Common  
Agricultural Policy (COM (2007)  
722 final) and the revision of the  
quality policy

Jorge Garbisu

Regional Government/  
EUSKADI

10:30

Lisbon Treaty & CAP future: the  
European Parliament agenda

Bernadette Bourzai

European Parliament/  
Vice President of the AGRICULTURE  
Commission

10:50

The new CAP as a food  
policy for Europe.  
Regional perspectives

Jacques Cochy

Regional Government/  
PAYS DE LA LOIRE

11:10

Coffee break

11:40

Round Table

Regional Governments of the Network

Future actions: Political strategies for the Network and a working  
plan for a common GMO-free label

Moderator: Lontxo Sainz, journalist

12:40

Conclusion of the Bilbao Conference and  
Signature of the Florence Charter by  
incoming new member Region

13:00

Press Conference

13:30

Lunch