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[Event](#) | 31.05.2011

## Seeds for a sustainable future

### A Greens/EFA conference

#### CONFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

- DG SANCO consultation on review of EU laws on seed marketing: options and analysis paper + [Action plan](#) + 12 directives under review
- [Claudia OLAZABAL, DG ENVI, European Commission - EU biodiversity strategy presentation \(ppt\)](#)
- [Maaïke RAAIJMAKERS, IFOAM EU - presentation \(pdf\)](#) - organic farmers and access to seeds
- [Gebhard ROSSMANITH, Director of Bingenheimer Seeds - presentation by seed producer \(pdf\)](#)
- [Gebhard ROSSMANITH, Director of Bingenheimer Seeds - diagram - 4 types of varieties produced in EU \(pdf\)](#)
- Declaration from the Seeds campaign:  
[Saatgut ist Menschenrecht!](#) - [Access to seeds is a human right](#)
- [Francis FAY, DG AGRI, European Commission - presentation \(ppt\)](#) - Reg. 870/2004
- [Regulation 870/2004 on conservation of genetic resources in agriculture](#)
- [Sébastien CRÉPIEUX, DG RTB, European Commission - presentation \(ppt\)](#) - EU research goals

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### Conference Programme

09:30

**Welcome, opening.**

**Handing over the petition** of 58 000 citizens, including seed savers and farmers, to the Petitions Committee of the European Parliament 09:45

**Panel presentations and discussions**

**Panel 1: Revision of the EU seed marketing legislation – what change is needed for more diversity?**

- **Harry VASSALLO**, member of Cabinet, Directorate General for Health and Consumers, DG SANCO  
*Stakeholder consultation on revision of current EU seed marketing law: what needs to be changed to preserve agricultural diversity?*

- **Claudia OLAZABAL** (tbc), Head of Biodiversity, Unit B2 Nature Conservation & Biodiversity, Directorate General for Environment, DG ENVI  
*Diversity of genetic resources in the context of International commitments and the EU's Biodiversity Strategy: Is agricultural biodiversity part of the equation?*
- **Maaike RAAIJMAKERS**, IFOAM EU member, Biologica  
*The organic producers' perspective*
- **Gebhard ROSSMANITH**, Director of Bingenheimer Saatgut AG seed producers  
*The perspective of plant breeders and seed producers*
- **Guy KASTLER**, Réseau Semences Paysannes, European Coordination Via Campesina  
*Seed saving and exchange: A farmer's right*
- **Blanche MARGARINOS-REY**, Lawyer representing a court case on EU seed law at the European Court of Justice

## Open debate

### Panel 2: Seeds under threat? Issue: Biotechnology and patents

- **Harry VASSALLO**, member of Cabinet, Directorate General for Health and Consumers, DG SANCO  
*GMO free seed: How does the EU guarantee the choice of farmers and consumers?*
- **Benedikt HAERLIN**, Save Our Seeds  
*GMO contamination of conventional and organic seeds; do patents threaten diversity and farmers' choice?*
- **Mute SCHIMPF**, Food Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe  
*The real costs of GM contamination along the food chain. Ways to maintain agricultural biodiversity and the quality of seeds.*

## Open debate

### Panel 3: Conservation, sustainable innovation and plant breeding – what impulses are needed?

- **Francis FAY**, deputy head of unit for Agricultural Product Quality Policy, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, DG AGRI  
*The EU regulation on conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity in agriculture (Reg. 870/2004): Is there need for improvement and greater ambition to fulfil society's expectations?*
- **Sébastien CREPIEUX**, Unit E4 Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, DG RTD  
*Research projects on plant breeding and agronomy: Are conservation and development of biodiversity and sustainable farming goals for research?*
- **Prof Urs NIGGLI**, member of Technology Platform Organics, Director of FiBL  
*Innovation and research: What kind of knowledge and research is the basis for progress in sustainable farming systems?*

## Open debate 12:30

## Summing up, gathering recommendations and conclusions

### Recommended

Press release

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[EPP makes climate deniers chief negotiators and puts t...](#)

09.07.2025

Press release

Marek Piwnicki auf Unsplash



## [EU climate target for 2040](#)

02.07.2025

Policy Paper

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## [Europe's Green Tech Revolution](#)

27.06.2025

Opinion

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (CC BY 4.0)



## [PFAS in Wine, Water & Makeup: How We Can Ban Forever C...](#)

18.06.2025

## **Responsible MEPs**



Martin Häusling

Member

## **Contact person**



Andrzej Nowakowski

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