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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

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

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Responsible MEPs



Martin Häusling

Member

Contact person



Andrzej Nowakowski

Advisor on Agriculture and Rural Development

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