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Editorial



Dear EurSafe Members,

At the turn of yet another year, it is my honour to wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May all go well for you and your family and may 2011 become a happy and fruitful year.

In this Newsletter you will find a few impressions about the Bilbao conference, sent to us by one of the young scholars who attended. There is also the quarterly Board Update, with some early news about the next EurSafe conference in 2012.

Those of you interested in contributing to an upcoming book "The Ethics and Economics of Agrifood Competition" will find an interesting request for contributions by Harvey S. James, Jr.

And, as usual, we have compiled an impressive array of conferences and courses that may be of interest to you.

Season's greetings to you all,

Stef Aerts
Chief Editor

Robert Smith,
Centre for Applied Bioethics,
University of Nottingham

Observations of the EurSafe Congress 2010 in Bilbao (from a PhD student's perspective)

Following on from 2009's congress in Nottingham, United Kingdom, the 9th Congress for the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics took place in Bilbao from the 15 – 18 September. It was hosted jointly by the Inter-University Chair of the BBVA Foundation of the University of Deusto and the University of the Basque Country. This article will provide a brief summary of the conference and includes a few reflections on the event.

My first experience of EurSafe in 2009 was of a relatively close-knit group of individuals who are at the same time open and inclusive

towards new people's participation, as should be the case given the make-up of the discipline that the society encapsulates. Thus in keeping with the traditions of EurSafe, this congress should in part act as a forum for informing both about more established research and to allow the development of novel and fledgling research. In addition to the 'core' group of individuals, the participants in Bilbao spanned from North America through to India, from those with focused academic interests to those with a distinct practitioner and political focuses, such as individuals working in the European Parliament. Thus EurSafe 2010 appeared to offer the potential to meet the society's aforementioned and long-standing role as welcoming multi-disciplinary platform.

In terms of the logistics of the Congress, I must confess to having one pre-event concern that using two venues, and indeed universities, might result in somewhat of a fragmented and fractured conference. However, with the exception of finding the University of the Basque Country Campus (and more specifically the building that a workshop for the food ethics dilemma was being held in), the venues were all sufficiently prominent to be able to locate without difficulty. On the other contrary, looking back this was a welcomed change for a conference – one of the experiences that I valued at the event was being able to walk around and take in the city as well as the academic programme. This was certainly facilitated in Bilbao.

Talk about food ethics dilemma now?

The venue for Thursday morning, 16th September, was the Euskalduna Conference Centre, which occupies the former Euskalduna Shipyard. Despite the heart of the building resembling a steel welding furnace encased in Escher's staircases, the venue catered well for the Congress. The University of Deusto, comprising a deceptively large cloistered building opposite the Guggenheim provided the second venue for both Friday and Saturday morning (17-18th September).

It is not possible to cover ever keynote presentation, therefore I aim to focus on a few, which I believe the delegation appeared to particularly engage with.

The initial plenary session consisted of a talk from a former UNESCO Director General, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, who provided an introductory speech and basis for the conference theme, framing food security, if there was any doubt, as a global issue. Subsequently, Dr Huub Löffler presented some interesting perspectives surrounding the potential for sustainable food production around the world and starting a side theme which became apparent throughout the conference: the inextricability of economics from modern-day science and technology and the issues surrounding them; a theme that was to continue throughout the remainder of the congress.

Professor Thomas Potthast considered the existence of a philosophy of agri-food, initially failing to find one. He then developed a rationale for the (as yet) hypothetical domain; forwarding arguments to justify his belief that such a field would likely have its roots in political philosophy. The result of this was an exciting discussion from the audience, who questioned the inclusion of aesthetic domains, the co-existence of competing views and even extending to the possibility of incorporating a feminist aspect to agri-food.

A completely different but equally interesting highlight was Professor Pakki Reddy's keynote which introduced and examined some of the

challenges that agricultural development in India faces, a country in which the government has recently made a number of guarantees to the population regarding the provision of food. This talk provided an interesting contrast to some of the issues that are often faced by Europe but also tied in a number of similar aspects. I doubt I was alone in my view that it was certainly a shame that the discussion could not have continued for longer.

Obviously, there were a wide range of parallel sessions running throughout the conference. There were obvious challenges about the grouping of a few of the talks, and movement between them, although intended to be possible, often was not as easy as hoped. However a number of talks provided a sometimes surprising opportunity for reflection upon topics that were raised that I would not have immediately chosen.

It obviously would not be possible for me to cover anywhere approaching the complete range of topics covered but I aim to give a somewhat biased insight into some of the areas that I personally enjoyed.

My general interests lie within animal ethics and institutional responses to ethics. My current research for my PhD is examining the shift in bioscience research toward a requirement for scientists to engage with the wider ethical and social issues that their research raises, namely with a focus toward individual and institutional values and the role that these processes of engagement play. Thus, I think it's safe to say that my discussion here is likely to be biased towards talks primarily related to my research interests. One of the best things to take out of the parallel sessions is the range of topics that were able to be covered within the remit of the society's interest and the Congress.

The sessions on offer certainly provided a wide variation subject in matter. Talks ranged from the 'standard topics' of animal welfare and biotechnology, sustainable agriculture and food labelling through to less frequent appearances such as sociological-oriented studies examining consumer understandings of the basis for animal use, some novel insights into training civil servants in ethics in the Netherlands and an interesting, yet conceptually challenging, attempt at pre-emptively chart people's values across Europe.

Before finishing this summary, it is worth highlighting two announcements that came out of the congress and which may be of interest to everyone. Firstly, the EurSafe website (www.eursafe.org) has undergone a transformation to bring it up to date with the recently redesigned logo. For anyone that has not seen it yet, please go and have a fresh look. Secondly, the next EurSafe congress will be hosted by one of the Keynote speakers, Professor Thomas Potthast and his group at Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen, Germany in 2012.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leire Escajado and the whole of the organising committee in Bilbao for hosting a conference with an ambitious and at times overwhelming, yet pertinent, focus. I hope it has sown the seeds for a wealth of future networks and opportunities for all, not least for myself. I look forward to Tübingen in 2012.

EurSafe Executive Committee Update

Welcome to the Winter 2010 issue of the EurSafe newsletter.

Firstly, the Executive Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Professors Romeo Casabona and Leire Escajedo San Epifanio and their teams at the University of Deusto and University of the Basque Country for organising such a stimulating and enjoyable Congress in Bilbao.

The Board is also delighted to welcome new members, Anne-Marie Neeteson (The Netherlands, General Manager at European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders, EFFAB) as Treasurer and Leire Escajado (Spain, University of Deusto, Bilbao) as a Board Member.

The cold weather and snow has truly descended on Europe so we would like to 'warm' our members' hearts by announcing the dates of the EurSafe 2012 Congress. We are therefore delighted to announce that the 10th EurSafe Congress will be held on 31st May 2012 (Thursday) to 2 June 2012 (Saturday) in Tübingen, Germany. Further details of the Congress will be available on the website in the new year: www.eursafe.org

The Board will be meeting in May 2011, therefore if any Members wish to raise an issue or propose new activities, etc, please do not hesitate to contact the Board via our Secretary, Frank Meijboom.

Finally, the Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their support and contributions in 2010. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we are looking forward to a productive year for all in 2011.

Kate Millar on behalf of Executive Committee

Book editor,
Harvey S. James, Jr.

Request for book contributions

'The Ethics and Economics of Agrifood Competition'

Published by Springer

One of the most contentious issues in agriculture is the nature of competition resulting from the consolidation and globalization of agrifood markets. Seed companies, meat packers, food processors, and grocery retailers are increasing market share, with fewer companies controlling larger shares of the market.

The US Departments of Agriculture and Justice have been holding cross-country workshops on agricultural competition. Speaking in the opening session in Iowa on March 12, 2010, US Attorney General Eric Holder said, "Is today's agriculture industry suffering from a lack of free and fair competition in the marketplace? That's the central question."

Currently there is very little scholarship on this important issue.

I am soliciting contributions for an edited volume to be published by *Springer* that provides ethical and/or economic analyses of agrifood competition. Some questions to consider are the following: Is there adequate competition in the agrifood industry? How do we know whether competition is adequate? Is the current system fair? What does 'fair competition' mean? Commentators frequently talk and write about fairness and openness in agricultural markets, but there is very little scholarly work systematically examining these ideas. This book will fill this gap in the literature.

Submissions between 8,000 and 10,000 words are acceptable. Submissions are due by July 1, 2011. Scholars interested in contributing to the book should send via email either a statement of interest or a brief chapter proposal to Harvey James at hjames@missouri.edu. All submissions will be peer reviewed.

In order to facilitate development of this book, I am organizing sessions of 3 to 4 participants for the 2011 annual meetings of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). The focus of the sessions is the economics and ethics of agrifood competition.

Scholars interested in participating in either of these sessions should contact me at hjames@missouri.edu by the date indicated. Participating in the conferences is not a prerequisite for contributing a chapter to the book.

- Panel session for the AFHVS meetings, held June 9-12, 2011, at the University of Montana-Missoula. Please submit a 250 word abstract by January 15, 2011.
- Organized Symposium for the AAEA meetings, held July 24-26, 2011, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Please submit a 250 word abstract by January 1, 2011.

About the editor:

Harvey James, PhD, is Associate Professor of Agribusiness Management in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Missouri. Dr. James is also editor-in-chief of the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*, published by Springer, and is a member of the editorial board at *Business Ethics Quarterly*. His research interests include the organizational structure of agricultural markets and the economic foundations of trust and ethics.

Conferences & Calls 2011/2012

January 7-9	International Conference on Life Science and Technology ICLST 2011 Mumbai, India http://www.iclst.org
January 14-16	Der Begriff der Natur – Philosophie, Naturwissenschaft und Theologie. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Whitehead- Gesellschaft. www.whitehead-gesellschaft.com
January 19-22	Internationales Agrarseminar: Von der Selbstversorgung zum Weltmarkt Europäische Akademie Berlin, Deutschland http://www.eab-berlin.de/fileadmin/downloads/programm/2010/Programm_Agrartagung.pdf
January 28-30	WATERCON 2011 - International Conference on Community based Water Resource Management Guwahati (India), Assam, India http://www.pfifound.org/watercon/
January 31 – February 3	Agriculture: promoting livelihoods in conflict-affected environments Monterey, California, United States
February 4	5th Conference on Medical Ethics and Law - Innovation in Teaching, Learning and Assessment of Medical Ethics and Law Institute of Medical Ethics, London, UK http://www.instituteofmedicalethics.org/events.html
February 6-8	International Conference Preparing Agriculture for Climate Change Ludhiana, India http://pau.edu/int_conf/
February 7-11	Human Medical Research - ethical, economical and socio-cultural aspects Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/malakow/download/pdf/2010/100721_cfa_bmbf_klausur_2011.pdf
February 14-18	Public Health Ethics - Scientific methods, foundational concepts, and case analyses Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany http://www.information-philosophie.de/?a=1&t=822&n=2&y=5&c=28
February 19-21	"Food Justice: Community, Sustainability and Equity" Location: University of Oregon, Eugene, OR Contact: Allison Carruth
February 20-25	Proceed with caution? – Concept and application of the Precautionary Principle in Nanobiotechnology Münster, Germany http://www.uni-muenster.de/imperia/md/content/bioethik/call_for_papers_pp_in_nanobio.pdf

February 21-26	Grüne Gentechnik: Zwischen Forschungsfreiheit und Anwendungsrisiko. Zu den normativen Voraussetzungen der Forschungsfreiheit am Beispiel des Risikodiskurses um MON 810. München, Germany www.tfn-institut.de/klausurwoche
March 3	Ethik-Kongress 2011 Vienna, Austria http://www.ethik-kongress.at/
March 5	“Valuing Lives: A Conference on Ethics in Health & the Environment” Center for Bioethics, New York University, NY, US http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/object/bioethics.valuinglives
March 10-11	Ethiken der Oberflächen. Annäherungen an die Aporien der Biopolitik Hochschule für Philosophie, München, Deutschland www.hfph.mwn.de
March 11-12	Continuous sedation at the end of life: Ethical perspectives Ghent University and Bioethics Institute Ghent, Ghent, Belgium http://www.cs.ugent.be/
March 15-17	2nd Global Conference: Ethics in Public Life Salzburg, Austria http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/transformations/ethics-and-public-life/call-for-papers/
March 20-22	The Asian Conference on Ethics, Religion and Philosophy 2011 Osaka, Japan http://acerp.iafor.org
March 21-26	Biodiversity. Concept and Value. Interdisciplinary Study Days. Deutsches Referenzzentrum für Ethik in den Biowissenschaften Bonn, Germany www.drze.de/studydays
March 22-24	Greenbelts: Local Solutions for Global Challenges Toronto, Ontario, Canada http://www.globalgreenbeltsconference.ca/
March 25-26	Zweiklassenmedizin. Tagung des Instituts für angewandte Ethik e.V. Bad Dürkheim, Germany www.ethik-institut.de
March 28- 29	Climate Change and Philosophy at the Tipping Point University of Lancaster; Funded by the Royal Institute of Philosophy and Society for Applied Philosophy http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/faculty/event/3563/
April 1-2	The Bowling Green Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy “Freedom, Paternalism and Morality”. Bowling green, Ohio, USA www.bgsu.edu/departments/phil/conferences/paternalism
April 4-8	International Conference Zoosemiotics and Animal Representations, Tartu, Estonia http://www.ut.ee/sose/conference/2011_zoosemiotics/index.html
April 6-8	International Conference on ‘Global Land Grabbing’ Institute of Dev. Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton, UK http://www.future-agricultures.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1908:global-land-grabbing-call-for-papers&catid=127&itemid=505

- April 6-7** Fifth African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development
Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Edo State, Nigeria
www.irdionline.org
- April 7-9** Undergraduate Ethics Symposium
DePauw University, Indiana, US
http://prindleinstitute.depauw.edu/programs/ethics_symposium.asp
- April 15** PHC Annual Health Ethics Conference
Segal Graduate School of Business, Vancouver, BC
http://www.providencehealthcare.org/ethics_services/health-ethics-conferences.html
- May 12-13** The 4th International Seville Conference on Future-Oriented
Technology Analysis (FTA)
Seville, Spain
http://foresight.jrc.ec.europa.eu/fta_2011/FTA2011_call_final.pdf
- May 13-15** Metaphysics & the Philosophy of Science Conference
University of Toronto
<http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/mhs016/mpsc2011/index.html>
- May 18-20** First International Conference on Organic Food Quality and Health
Research
Diplomat Hotel Conference Centre
Prague, Czech Republic
http://www.fqh2011.org/fqh2011_announcement.pdf
- May 18-21** 7th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation: "Moving
Ethics"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<http://www.iccec2011.org/>
- May 19-21** Climate change, Agri-food, Fisheries and Ecosystems. Reinventing
research, innovation, and policy agendas for environmentally- and
socially-balanced growth
Agadir (Morocco)
<http://nrccs.webnode.com/scientific-events/iccaff2011/english-version/>
- May 19-22** 5th Global Conference: Ethics, Evil, Law and the State
Warsaw, Poland
<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/at-the-interface/evil/evil-law-the-state/call-for-papers/>
- May 27-28** Interdisziplinäres Symposium „Kampf um Ressourcen und die (De-)
Stabilisierung der Weltordnung
Hochschule für Philosophie, München, Deutschland
www.hfph.mwn.de
- June 1** 2nd International Conference on Ecological Theology and
Environmental Ethics (ECOTHEE 2011)
Chania, Crete, Greece
<http://ithe.webs.com/>
- June 9-12** Food and Agriculture under the big sky: People, Partnerships and
Policies
The University of Montana – Missoula
<http://www.afhvs.org/2011callforpapers.pdf>

June 21-23	First International Conference on Food and Environment - The Quest for a Sustainable Future New forest, UK http://www.wessex.ac.uk/11-conferences/foodandenvironment-2011.html
June 28-29	7th Conference of the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture Beauvais, France www.gchera.com
June 30 – July 1	Agrigenomics Congress Hamburg, Germany http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/AGWC2011/
July 8-11	10th Global Conference: Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship Oxford, United Kingdom http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/ethos/environmental-justice-and-global-citizenship/call-for-papers/
July 21-22	The third international conference on climate change: impacts and responses Rio de Janeiro, Brazil http://www.Climate-Conference.com
July 26-29	3rd International Conference on Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries (SAADC 2011) Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand www.saadc2011.com/home.php
August 5-8	Third International Conference on Science in Society Washington DC, United States http://science-society.com/conference-2011/
August 17-20	Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (ESPMH) Zurich, Switzerland http://www.ethik.uzh.ch/ibme/news/espmh-conference/ESPMH-Zurich-2011.pdf
August 22-24	ACES 2011: Conservation Conflicts: Strategies for coping with a changing world Aberdeen, Scotland, UK http://www.aces-2011.org
August 24-27	Symposium on Ethics of Environmental Health Prague, Czech Republic http://www.seeh2011.org
September 2-4	14th ICPP: Ethics, Experience and Evidence: Integration of Perspectives in Psychiatry; Gothenburg, Sweden http://www.phil.gu.se/sffp/sffp_eng.html
September 4-8	6th Science Centre World Congress Cape Town, South Africa http://www.6scwc.org/
September 5 – 15	Medical Ethics & Legal Medicine Civitavecchia, Italy http://www.continuingeducation.net/course/details.php?program_number=886

September 29 – October 2

Die Selbstbestimmung des Patienten und die Medizin der Zukunft.
Perspektiven einer Medizinethik des 21. Jahrhunderts. Jahrestagung
der Akademie für Ethik in der Medizin 2011
Göttingen, Germany
www.aem-online.de

October 15-19

The IDF World Dairy Summit 2011
Parma, Italy
<http://www.wds2011.com/enter.html>

October 28-29

Bucharest Conference in Applied Ethics 2011
University of Bucharest, Romania
<http://www.bcae.ro/>

July 1-7

2012

Minding Animals Conference
Utrecht University, The Netherlands
www.mindinganimals.com

Also, on this site, a number of pre-conference lectures in different
countries is announced.

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Deadline for the next issue: February 15, 2011

You are kindly invited to send any relevant contributions, conference calls, publication reviews, etc. to the editors.