

EurSafe News

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics



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EurSafe

General Assembly and nomination of new Executive Committee

At this year's EurSafe Congress in Oslo the society will hold its General Assembly on Saturday 24 June from 12.30 to 13.30.

Agenda for the General Assembly

1. Welcome
2. Report on the state of affairs of EurSafe (Secretary)
3. Financial report and report of the Cash Audit Committee (Treasurer)
4. Election of new Executive Committee (President)
5. Feedback and suggestions of the members on the activities of EurSafe
6. Next EurSafe Congress
7. Close

Nomination for the election of the new Executive Committee

In the December issue (vol.7 no.4) of EurSafe News the procedure for the

election of the new Executive Committee was presented along with a call for candidates. In line with Article 8 of the statutes the current Executive Committee nominates candidates for the election. This nomination is presented below. Other candidates can be nominated on the proposal of at least ten members of the society. Such nominations shall be given to the EurSafe President and the **deadline is Friday 23 June at 19.00.**

Article 8 of the statutes

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of at least four (4) persons. Appointments shall be made by the General Meeting from among the members. The number of Executive Committee members shall be determined by the General Meeting. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee may make a nomination, without prejudice to the authority of the General Meeting to appoint someone else.
2. Candidates for the Executive Committee may be nominated by the Executive Committee, as well as on the proposal of at least ten ordinary members.

Nominees for the new EurSafe Executive Committee

President:

Peter Sandøe. Peter is a professor of Bioethics at the Royal Agricultural and Veterinary University in Copenhagen, Denmark and the director of the Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment.

Secretary:

Frans Brom. Frans is a professor of Life Science Ethics at the Wageningen University and Research Centre and

director of studies of the Ethics Institute at Utrecht University, Netherlands

Treasurer:

Jos Metz. Jos is a professor of Technical Design of Industrial Processes in Animal Husbandry at the Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherlands

Members:

Andrea Cattaneo. Andrea is an economist at the Directorate for Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. Andrea has an Italian and American background.

Johan DeTavernier. Johan is a professor of Moral Theology and the director of the Centre for Science, Technology and Ethics at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Matthias Kaiser. Matthias is the director of the National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT), Norway.

Kate Millar. Kate is the director of the Centre for Applied Bioethics of Nottingham University, UK.

Helena Röcklinsberg. Helena is a lecturer of Theological Ethics at Lund University, Sweden.

Mariachiara Tallacchini. Mariachiara is a professor of Philosophy of Law at the Law Faculty of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Sede di Piacenza, Italy. She teaches Bioethics at the Faculty of Biotechnology of the State University of Milan, and Science Technology and the Law at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University San Raffaele of Milan.

The new Executive Committee will elect the **Vice President** among its members.

The Executive Committee will be supported by **Paul Den Besten** who is the executive director of the Royal Agricultural Society, Netherlands, and who will act as the **executive officer** for EurSafe:
paul.denbesten@wur.nl

We foresee an election of the whole board in one voting round.

On behalf of EurSafe Executive Committee
Frans Brom

Current Affairs

ScanBalt: A bio-region in need of ethical assistance

No cries for help have been emitted. Nevertheless, assistance may be needed – assistance, that is, regarding how to identify and face up to ethical challenges relating to the development of biotechnology: Presenting itself as "Europe's first metaregion" the ScanBalt BioRegion has recently published a report on its activities and future plans for biotech innovation in the northern parts of Europe. The 26 pages report does not contain any reference to ethical challenges related to such efforts.

By Gitte Meyer

ScanBalt is an umbrella organization – a network of regional networks – covering 11 countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the northern parts of Germany and north-western Russia. Members come from universities, companies, development agencies, tech transfer organizations, hospitals and public authorities. In the report, the organization professes to be creating a knowledge-based bio-economy, to be assisting in reaching the goals set by the Lisbon agenda that the EU should become the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, and to be "acting as a tool to realize the ambitions of the EU strategy for life science and biotechnology" and, thus, to contribute to enabling the EU to compete successfully with the USA and Asia.

The stress on economic aspects, innovation and competition is repeated in the vision published together with the strategy for 2006-2008: "ScanBalt will promote

knowledge formation, education, research, technology transfer, innovation and economic development within life sciences in order to meet meta-regional needs and increase competitiveness. This will be in accordance with ScanBalt values. ScanBalt will be a forum for discussions of the impact of life sciences on society. ScanBalt will act as a platform and an umbrella for activities within life sciences." Concerning the values of ScanBalt it is stated that: "ScanBalt believes that the life sciences have a major potential to contribute positively to health, welfare and prosperity. The exploitation of life sciences and the promotion of growth must be conducted in tandem with a dialogue between science and society. ScanBalt will promote such a dialogue." Sustainable development is referred to as "an overarching objective", followed by the clarification: "Thus, the development and application of life sciences must take place in a way which is healthy to citizens and the environment and is consistent with common fundamental values and ethical principles. The development of ScanBalt BioRegion requires that these values are respected and that all involved parties will benefit while working together towards the same goals."

Beyond the statements on vision and values only one reference is made to ethics – in a listing of topics relating to a network on regenerative medicine. There is no specification concerning the aim of facilitating dialogue; and neither in the presentation of networks nor in the listing of selected articles and presentations does the report mention any ethical challenges. Correspondingly, no conflicts, whether relating to values or conflicting social interests, are being pointed to.

ScanBalt network topics include agrobiotech, clinical research, environmental biotechnology, informational biology, intellectual property and bio-entrepreneurship, marine biotechnology, molecular diagnostics, process analytical technology, regenerative medicine and stem cell research.

One of the aims of ScanBalt is to attract funding for its members. According to the report, ScanBalt has facilitated the raising of approximately 4 million Euros for its mem-

bers since 2002. Funding for the organization has been supplied by Nordic and European public purses, among these the Nordic Innovation Centre, Nordforsk and the sixth EU research framework programme.

The organization is committed to the triple-helix credo of furthering cooperation between universities, governments and industry. 14 universities are among the founding members,. Six of these universities are Swedish.

The report and further information on ScanBalt can be found at www.scanbalt.org

New Website

Farm subsidies

Danish authorities paid EUR 1.3 billion of farm subsidies to more than 70,649 recipients in 2005. There was a significant increase in the number of recipients compared to former years. Some 17,290 'first time' recipients were paid a total of DKK 440.645.234 or just less than 5 percent of all farm subsidies in 2005.

These figures and a lot more can be found on <http://www.farmsubsidy.org/>.

Farmsubsidy.org describes itself as "a collaborative project bringing together journalists and activists from more than ten European countries". The purpose of the project and the website is to publish data about farm subsidy payments, data obtained through freedom of information requests.

Farmsubsidies.org has strong links to the journalistic trend of Investigative Journalism and its branch called Analytical Reporting in

particular.

"Farm subsidies under the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) amount to approximately EUR 43.5 billion a year, just over 40% of the European Union's annual budget, or an average of just under EUR 100 a year for each EU citizen. We believe that the people who are paying for this policy have a right to know where the money goes", writes one of the founders, the Danish journalist Niels Mulvad.

Mid-June there were data from ten European countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. For five countries access to data were denied: Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece and Poland, while for the rest of the EU countries the lack of data probably is due to lack of activists and journalists interested in the topic.

GeT

New Journals

ANIMAL

A new International Journal of Animal Bioscience

The launch of *ANIMAL* is the result of a collaborative venture between European Federation for Animal Science (EAAP), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), and British Society of Animal Science (BSAS). To learn more about *ANIMAL* or to submit papers, please contact

Mike Steele at BSAS: Mike.Steele@sac.ac.uk (44 131 445 4508), Philippe Chemineau at INRA: Philippe.Chemineau@tours.inra.fr (+33 2 47 42 79 38), or Andrea Rosati at EAAP: rosati@eaap.org (+39 06 44202639).

More about the journal on http://www.eaap.org/CONTENT/New_Journal.htm

NanoEthics **Ethics for Technologies that Converge** **at the Nanoscale**

This new journal from Springer will – according to the publisher – "focus on the philosophically and scientifically rigorous examination of the ethical and societal considerations and the public and policy concerns inherent in nanotechnology research and development. These issues include both individual and societal problems, and include individual health, wellbeing and human enhancement,

human integrity and autonomy, distribution of the costs and benefits, threats to culture and tradition and to political and economic stability. Additionally there are meta-issues including the neutrality or otherwise of technology, designing technology in a value-sensitive way, and the control of scientific research."

NanoEthics will appear from 2007, but online articles of the journal are already available. A call for papers can be found on <http://www.springer.com/west/home/philosophy?SGWID=4-40385-70-131768896-0>

Conferences & Meetings

2006

Jun 21-24

EurSafe 2006 - Ethics and the Politics of Food (Oslo - Norway)

<http://eursafe2006.etikkom.no/>

Jun 25-30

International Symposium - Genetics in Aquaculture IX (Montpellier - France)

International Association for Genetics in Aquaculture - IAGA

<http://www.mediaqua.fr/IAGA>

Jun 29 - Jul 2

10th International Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology: Facts, Analysis and Policies (Ravello - Italy)

Organised by International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research (ICABR), Catholic University of Leuven, CEIS - University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rutgers University and Economic Growth Center, Yale University.

<http://www.economia.uniroma2.it/conferenze/icabr2006/>

Jul 3-6

5th Global Conference on Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship (Oxford - UK)

Environments, Sustainability and Technologies. This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference aims to explore the role of ecology and environmental ideas in the context of contemporary society and international politics, and assess the implications for our understandings of fairness, justice and global citizenship

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ptb/ejgc/ejgc5/cfp.htm>

Jul 9-13

Annual Meeting of the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) (with ADSA) (Minneapolis - USA)

<http://adsa.asas.org/meetings/2006/>

Jul 15-19

Euroscience Open Forum 2006 (Munich - Germany)

ESOF2006 is the second pan-European General Science meeting, the purpose of which is to promote interaction and dialogue between science and the general public.

<http://www.esof2006.org/>

Aug 6-9

ABIC 2006. Unlocking the Potential of Agricultural Biotechnology (Melbourne - Australia)

Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC)

<http://www.abic2006.org/index2.html>

Aug 6-9

A Just and Healthy Society. Eighth World Congress of Bioethics (Beijing - China)

Organised by the International Association of Bioethics (IAB)

<http://www.bioethics-international.org/>

Aug 6-10

11th International Congress of Human Genetics (Brisbane - Australia)

Hosted by Human Genetics Society of Australasia.

<http://www.ichg2006.com/Default.asp>

Aug 8-12

Applying Ethology: Links Between Fundamental and Applied Research (Bristol - UK)

40th International Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology

Hosted by the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Group at the University of Bristol.

<http://www.isae2006.co.uk/>

Aug 13-18

8th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) (Belo Horizonte, MG - Brazil)

<http://iprocincia.locaweb.com.br/paginaInicial.do>

Aug 20-25

ISAG 2006. 30th International Conference on Animal Genetics (Porto Seguro, Bahia - Brazil)
Hosted by Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction
<http://www.cbra.org.br/eventos/30isag.do>

Aug 23-25

1st IFOAM International Conference on Animals in Organic Production (St.Paul, Minnesota - USA)
Organised by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
http://www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam_conferences/IFOAM_Animal_Production_Conference.html

Sep 4-7

IX Congress of the European Society for Agronomy (Warsaw - Poland)
Warsaw Agricultural University
<http://www.esa.org.pl/>

Sep 5-6

Innogen Annual Conference 2006: Genomics for Development? The Life Sciences and Poverty Reduction (London - UK)
Innogen - ESRC centre for social and economic research on innovation in genomics
<http://www.innogen.ac.uk/Events/Annual-Conference/Innogen-Annual-Conference-2006-Genomics-and-Development>

Sep 13-15

Quality of Life: The Heart of the Matter (London - UK)
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) / British Veterinary Association (BVA) Ethics Committee International Symposium 2006
<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/quality%20of%20life.htm>

Sep 14-15

Ethnoveterinary Medicine Conference: Harvesting Knowledge, Pharming Opportunities (Chelmsford - UK)
<http://www.wriddle.ac.uk/pgc/MainDisplay.cfm?ID=67&full=Y&Ref=26&smenuid=57>

Sep 15-17

Scientists and Social Commitment - Historical perspectives on the political, religious and philosophical ideas and activity of scientists (London - UK)
http://www.bsahs.org.uk/bsahs/conferences/other_bsahs_meetings/scientists_and_social_commitment/

Sep 17-20

Sustaining Production Systems to Improve the Livelihoods (health, well-being, wealth) of Livestock Farmers (Antalya - Turkey)
57th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP)
<http://www.eaap2006.gen.tr/>

Sep 17-21

Food is Life. 13th World Congress of Food Science & Technology (Nantes - France)
<http://www.inra.fr/iufost2006/index.html>

Sep 20

Ethical Traceability In The Food Chain - On Consumers' Informed Choice (Brussels - Belgium)
<http://www.ethic-trace.net/>

Sep 24-29

The 9th International Symposium on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO) (Jeyu Island - South Korea)
Organised by the International Society for Biosafety Research (ISBR). The symposium will explore the relationship between biosafety research and environmental risk assessment.
<http://www.isbr.info/>

Sep 28-30

New Pathways for European Bioethics (Leuven - Belgium)
Annual conference organized by the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics (EACME)
<http://www.kuleuven.be/cbmer/congres/page.php?LAN=E&CID=13&FILE=congres>

Sep 28-30

1st World Congress of Public Health Nutrition / 7th SENC Congress (Barcelona - Spain)
<http://www.nutrition2006.com>

Oct 16-20

International Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Tools, Trends and Perspectives (Eilat - Israel)
European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
Deadline for abstracts: 31 July
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/commissions/en/eufmd/eufmd.html>

Nov 3-4

Genes, Brain/Mind and Behavior (Heidelberg - Germany)
Organised by EMBL/EMBO - European Molecular Biology Laboratory/Organisation
<http://www.embl.org/aboutus/sciencesociety/conferences/2006/scope06.html>

Dec 1-3

2006 ORI Research Conference on Research Integrity (Tampa FL - USA)
Organised by Office of Research Integrity, US Department of Health and Human Services
<http://ori.hhs.gov/research/extra/rcri.html>

Dec 15-19

ISEE 2006 (New Delhi - India)
9th Biennial Conference of International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) on Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-being
Deadline for abstracts: 31 July
<http://www.isee2006.com/index.htm>

Books & Reports

New books

Feeding the Gods: Memories of Food and Culture in Bengal

by Chitrita Banerji
Berg Publishers (due August 2006)
ISBN 1-9054-2210-5
<http://www.bergpublishers.com/uk/home.htm>

Genomics and Society. Legal, Ethical and Social Dimensions

edited by George Gaskell & Martin Bauer
Earthscan Publications Ltd. (June 2006), 256 pp.
ISBN 1-84407-113-8
<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/ProductID/680/GroupID/7/CategoryID/17/v/2>

The Way We Eat : Why Our Food Choices

Matter by Peter Singer & Jim Mason
Rodale Press (May 2006), 328 pp.
ISBN 1-57954-889-X
http://www.rodalestore.com/webapp/wcs/stores/serve/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10002&storeId=10051&productId=47486&langId=-1&nav_wt=search

Ethical Sourcing in the Global Food System: Challenges And Opportunities to Fair Trade and the Environment

edited by Stephanie Barrientos & Catherine Dolan
Earthscan Publications Ltd. (April 2006), 192 pp.
ISBN 1-84407-199-5
<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/ProductDetails/mcs/ProductID/684/GroupID/6/CategoryID/3/v/2>

Worlds of Food : Place, Power, and Provenance in the Food Chain

by Kevin Morgan, Terry Marsden & Jonathan Murdoch
Oxford Geographical & Environmental Studies / Oxford University Press (January 2006), 240 pp.
ISBN 0-1992-7158-5
<http://www.oup.com/uk/catalogue/?ci=9780199271580>

New Reports

OECD Biotechnology Statistics 2006

by Brigitte van Beuzekom & Anthony Arundel
OECD (2006)
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/51/59/36760212.pdf>

Office of Research Integrity. Annual Report 2005

US Department of Health and Human Services (May 2006), 73 pp.
http://ori.hhs.gov/documents/annual_reports/ori_annual_report_2005.pdf

Earlier published books

Microbial Food Safety in Animal Agriculture:

Current Topics

edited by Mary E. Torrence & Richard E. Isaacson
Iowa State Press (May 2003), 416 pp.
ISBN 0-8138-1495-2
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/book.asp?ref=0813814952>

Research Funding

EU emphasis on agricultural research

Joseph Pröll, Austria's Agriculture Minister and President of the EU Agriculture Council, said there was a clear mandate for common EU agricultural research in the EU, following an informal meeting of EU agriculture ministers in Krems on 28-30 May. 'We have tackled issues important to the future at this informal meeting,' he said.

'One result of our talks was the realisation that there is insufficient coordination and cooperation between Member States in research and development. We need a common European research vision in the agriculture sector,' he said.

'The WTO negotiations, which will come to a head again next week, will clearly pose

challenges we must overcome. Politicians can give support by providing appropriate conditions, but it is above all the farmers themselves who will have to act,' said Mr Pröll.

In order to deliver these 'appropriate conditions', the ministers felt more research would be essential to equip farmers for the additional pressure that lies ahead. The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) currently devotes the Food Quality and Safety thematic area to research 'from farm to fork'. Under FP7, this will be expanded to 'Food, agriculture and biotechnology', one of nine thematic areas. The informal meeting gave ministers the opportunity to speak freely, and they identified four key areas with 'deficits', of which Research and Development was the first.

(from a press release from the Austrian EU Presidency)

EurSafe information

Executive Secretariat

The executive secretariat of EurSafe is provided by

Paul den Besten, who also is director of the Royal Netherlands Society of Agricultural Sciences.

Paul can be reached by e-mail at: paul.denbesten@wur.nl

Classic mail to Eursafe can be sent to the address:

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Executive Committee (until 24 June)

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linda.fulponi@oecd.org

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EurSafe News

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Deadline for the next issue: 25 August 2006