



GENOME EDITING IN EUROPE: NEW AGENDA OR NEW DISPUTES?

SHARING KNOWLEDGE IN DESIGNING
EU'S FUTURE GMO REGULATION

International virtual
conference on scientific
advice to policy-makers
and society

1 – 2 OCTOBER 2020

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RATIONALE

In light of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) Judgment of 25 July 2018 in Case C-528/16 on the interpretation of the GMO Directive 2001/18/EC, the European Council asked the European Commission on 8 November 2019 to submit by April 2021 a study on the “status of novel genomic techniques under Union law”.¹ If recommendable, the study shall include a “proposal” that might transcend into a legislative proposal amending the existing EU regulatory framework on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). A comprehensive review of foreign regulatory frameworks should form an important part of the factual foundations of this study.

Taking notice of the diversity of reactions to the ECJ Judgement from local to EU-level and from business to consumers, the German Science Academies and the German Research Foundation (DFG) decided to bring light into the debate through scientific evidence-based facts. Hence, they released a report² drawn up by an interdisciplinary group of experts in the field. This report calls for a more differentiated approach to regulation of GMOs in Europe, stressing the need to develop a forward-looking new regulatory framework, and to insert scientific facts into the design of policy and regulation.

The meeting intends to be an agora for discussing the latest aspects of GMOs in Europe and the world, focussing on the prospects of EU regulation in the field and on the optimal use of scientific findings in policy design and consumer protection. Additionally, the report commissioned by the German Science Academies and the German Research Foundation will be presented and explained to the audience.

1 Retrievable at: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/gmo/modern_biotech/new-genomic-techniques_en.

2 Retrievable at: <https://bit.ly/30ieK2h>.



PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

Note: due to complex and changing COVID-19 restrictions, the conference will be held as a series of Zoom webinars (virtual participation only). The entire conference will be streamed live on YouTube. All times are CEST (GMT+2).

DAY 1

1 OCTOBER 2020

Official opening

- 11:00 – 11:06 Professor Gerald Haug, President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- 11:06 – 11:12 Professor Katja Becker, President, German Research Foundation
- 11:12 – 11:20 Dr Lorenz Franken, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Session 1: Scientific Advice on Rethinking EU's GMOs Regulatory Framework

Genome editing methods enable directed, cost- and timesaving modifications of the genome of crops, often indistinguishable from naturally occurring mutations and from the results of traditional breeding methods. More than 100 (potentially) marketable genome-edited crops are known for their benefits to nutrition. They have higher productivity and require less use of pesticides, and enable a more sustainable and resource-saving agriculture. The shortcomings of regulating genome-edited organisms (GEOs) in the same way as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) call for a general overhaul of the EU's regulatory framework in this field. The session intends to discuss the state of affairs and prospects for such an undertaking.

- 11:20 – 11:23 **Introduction by the moderator**
Professor Justus Wesseler, Wageningen University and Research
- 11:23 – 11:35 Professor Martin Qaim, University of Göttingen
Urgency to Overhaul EU's GMO Regulation in the Context of Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture and Economic Pressure
- 11:35 – 11:47 Professor Hans-Georg Dederer, University of Passau
Scientific Recommendations by the German Science Academies and the German Research Foundation
- 11:47 – 12:00 **Discussion with Q&A from the audience**
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch break**

Session 2: Role and Competitiveness of EU's R&D for Sustainable Agriculture

The EU's regulatory framework imposes undue pressure on both researchers and plant breeders. Field trials of GMOs require an authorisation and have to be publicly registered. In the past, these circumstances led to an extensive destruction of test fields, thus triggering a chilling effect on open-field research in the EU. Further, it leads to a relocation of plant breeding research to countries with a more favourable regulatory climate, such as the USA. The GMO authorisation procedure is time-consuming, costly and highly unpredictable due to over-politicisation of the matter in public debates. Therefore, the amendment or complete re-draft of EU's GMO regulation should reinforce Europe's global top role in R&D on GMOs and GEOs, in plant breeding and agriculture. The session intends to search for ways and means to achieve this strategic aim.

- 13:00 – 13:03 **Introduction by the moderator**
Maryline Fiaschi, Managing Director, Science|Business
- 13:03 – 14:00 **Discussion with initial statements and Q&A from the audience**
- Viola von Cramon-Taubadel MEP, European Parliament,
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- Dr Wolfgang Burtscher, Director-General, European Commission
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Dr Sabine Jülicher, Director, European Commission Directorate-General
for Health and Food Safety
- Dr Petra Jorasch, Manager Plant Breeding Innovation Advocacy, Euroseeds
- Pekka Pesonen, Secretary-General, Copa & Cogeca European Farmers'
Associations
- Professor Dirk Inzé, VIB-UGent Center for Plant Systems Biology
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Coffee break**

Session 3: Socio-Economic and Environmental Concerns of GMOs

A new EU GMO regulatory framework should take into consideration legitimate societal, economic and environmental concerns as voiced by different actors, such as end consumers, farmers, environmental activists or SMEs. Equally, the regulation must accommodate the fundamental objectives of environmental protection, nature conservation and sustainable agriculture. According to the precautionary principle, the benefits of new molecular breeding methods and their products need appropriate consideration in a problem-oriented manner, building upon the experience with conventional genetic engineering over the past three decades. The session intends to bring current debates onto a more objective level, through rational analysis and inclusive dialogue.

- 14:30 – 14:33 **Introduction by the moderators**
Professor Gerald Haug, President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Professor Axel Brakhage, Vice President, German Research Foundation
- 14:33 – 14:43 Pablo Orozco, LL.M, Cornell Alliance for Science
Biotechnology in Light of the Sustainable Development Goals
- 14:43 – 14:53 Dr Monika Messmer, Swiss FiBL Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
Impact of Future GMO Regulation Scenarios on the Organic Sector
- 14:53 – 15:03 Professor Sabine Schlacke, University of Münster
Application of the Precautionary Principle – the European vs. the Anglo-American Approach
- 15:03 – 15:13 Professor Alexandra-Maria Klein, University of Freiburg
Conservation of Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes without Compromising Food Security
- 15:13 – 15:30 **Discussion with Q&A from the audience**
- 15:30 **End of day 1**

Session 4 | Part 1: Regulation of GEOs in the EU and Worldwide

It follows from the ECJ Judgment of 25 July 2018 in Case C-528/16 that GEOs are GMOs within the meaning of, and governed by, Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 March 2001. Therefore, GEOs are subject to the legal framework applicable to GMO release, placing on the market, labelling and traceability. Having in mind the EU's major international trading partners and competitors, there is a tendency to exempt certain GEOs from the rules applicable to GMOs. This applies, in particular, to Argentina, Australia, Japan and the United States. In Canada, genome-edited seeds may be subject to a product-based authorisation process if they result in "novel traits" of the respective seeds. Therefore, the EU has to deal with asymmetric regulatory approaches worldwide. This can set unjustifiable trade barriers, which can lead to so-called "trade wars". The session intends to explore similarities and differences in GMO regulation, having in mind international trade between the EU and its major trading partners.

- 12:30 – 12:35 **Introduction by the moderator**
Professor Piet van der Meer, Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- 12:35 – 12:45 Professor Lonneke Poort, Erasmus University Rotterdam & The Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification
GEO Regulation in the EU
- 12:45 – 12:55 Professor Karinne Ludlow, Monash University (GMT+10/CEST+8/AEST)
GEO Regulation in Australia
- 12:55 – 13:05 Professor Tetsuya Ishii, Hokkaido University (GMT+9/CEST+7/JST)
GEO in Japan: Past, Present and Future
- 13:05 – 13:30 **Discussion with Q&A from the audience**
- 13:30 – 16:00 **Break**

Session 4 | Part 2: Regulation of GEOs in the EU and Worldwide

- 16:00 – 16:05 Introduction by the moderator
Professor Hans-Georg Dederer, University of Passau
- 16:05 – 16:15 Professor Martin Lema, National University of Quilmes (GMT-3/CEST-5/ART)
GEO Regulation in Argentina
- 16:15 – 16:25 Professor Margaret Rosso Grossman, (GMT-5/CEST-7/CDT)
University of Illinois
GEO Regulation in the USA
- 16:25 – 16:35 Professor Stuart Smyth, University of Saskatchewan (GMT-6/CEST-8/CST)
GEO Regulation in Canada
- 16:35 – 17:00 Discussion with Q&A from the audience
- 17:00 End of conference



SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS



Professor Dr Katja BECKER

President, German Research Foundation –
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn, Germany

Katja Becker has been President of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG) since January 2020 and a Full Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at University of Giessen, Germany, since 2000. As a medical doctor trained at Heidelberg University, her main research interests are in biochemistry and molecular biology, including cellular thiol metabolism, the structure and function of redox-active proteins and rational drug development for tumours and infectious diseases, particularly tropical malaria. She published more than 250 articles and coordinated several research consortia. From 2014 to 2019 she served as Vice President of the DFG and as chair of DFG's Permanent Senate Commission on Genetic Research (2016 – 2019). She received the Carus Medal of Leopoldina in 2003 and was elected Member in 2009. From 2015 – 2017 she acted as German representative on the scientific committee of the EU COST programme.

www.dfg.de



Professor Dr Axel A. BRAKHAGE

Vice-President, German Research Foundation –
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn, Germany

Since July 2020, Axel A. Brakhage has been Vice-President of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG). In 2004 he was appointed as Chair and Professor for Microbiology and Molecular Biology at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and, in 2005, as Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology – Hans Knöll Institute (Leibniz-HKI) in Jena, Germany. His research focuses on infection biology of human pathogenic fungi, molecular and synthetic biotechnology of microbial natural products, and functional microbiome research. He was elected Member of Leopoldina in 2008 and has been Head of Section 13 – Microbiology and Immunology of Leopoldina since 2020.

www.dfg.de



Dr Wolfgang BURTSCHER

Director-General, Directorate-General of Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Wolfgang Burtischer has been Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development since April 2020. From 2009 to 2020, he was Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's DG for Research and Innovation and in that function responsible for a wide range of research and innovation policy development and implementation issues including research and innovation in the fields of agriculture, food and health. Previously (2000 – 2009), Burtischer was Director in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture where he was responsible for the provision of legal support to the CAP and quality policy and for the control of agricultural expenditure.

From 1992 to 1996, Burtischer was Director of European Affairs in the public administration of the Austrian Land Vorarlberg. From 1983 to 1990, he was a lecturer in public international and European law at the University of Innsbruck. Burtischer holds a doctorate in law and a qualification from the Institut Européen des Hautes Études Internationales in Nice.

www.ec.europa.eu/info/departments/agriculture-and-rural-development



Viola VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL

MEP, European Parliament

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel was elected as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for Germany in 2019 and belongs to the Group of The Greens/European Free Alliance. Since becoming a MEP, she has been serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and as a substitute in the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy and on Budget Control.

In the Foreign Affairs Committee, she is also the Standing Rapporteur of the European Parliament for Kosovo. In addition to her committee assignments, she is the First Vice-Chair of the EP's delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee and a member to the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly and was appointed by her group in July 2020 as a member of the EP's newly established Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation. Prior to that, she represented Lower Saxony in the German federal parliament from 2009 to 2013 where she was the spokesperson for EU foreign relations and for sports policy.

www.europarl.europa.eu



Professor Dr Hans-Georg DEDERER

Chair of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Public International Law, European and International Economic Law, University of Passau, Germany

Hans-Georg Dederer studied technical cybernetics at the University of Stuttgart (1987 – 1988) and Law at the Universities of Tübingen and Constance in Germany (1988 – 1992). He is Full Professor and holds the Chair of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Public International Law,

European and International Economic Law at University of Passau, Germany. In addition, he is Member of the Permanent Senate Commission of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG) on Genetic Research. He was a member of the former Leopoldina Ad hoc Working Group “Genome edited plants”.

www.jura.uni-passau.de/en



Maryline FIASCI

Managing Director, Science|Business, Brussels, Belgium

Maryline Fiaschi joined Science|Business in 2011 where she now leads the company’s operations and growth strategy. Previously, she managed EU education programmes with the European Commission for six years, before entering the media business in 2007. She held business development positions at Shanghai Daily and EU affairs media company

EurActiv. She is also an external evaluator for several EU higher education and research and innovation programmes. Maryline holds degrees from Université La Sorbonne, Università di Bologna and Université de Louvain.

www.sciencebusiness.net



Dr Lorenz FRANKEN

Director, Department 2 "Consumer Health Protection, Nutrition, Product Safety", German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Bonn, Germany

Lorenz Franken, lawyer, has been working at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany since 2002. He has already spent several years working in the field of bio and genetic engineering in key areas of the department that he took over in (mid-)April 2019.

Franken also worked at the Permanent Representation of the WTO in Geneva. Most recently, he gained extensive experience in the field of political-parliamentary cooperation as Head of the Department for Cabinet, Parliamentary and Protocol Affairs and as Head of the Political Staff Unit.

www.bmel.de/en



Professor Margaret Rosso GROSSMAN

Professor Emerita and Bock Chair in Agricultural Law Emerita, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Margaret Rosso Grossman, Ph.D., J.D., is Bock Chair Emerita and Professor of Agricultural Law Emerita in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Her research focuses on agricultural, food, and environmental law in the United States and Europe. Grossman is the author of almost 130 law review articles and book chapters published in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Germany, and Italy. She is author or editor of books published in Europe and the United States. She has presented papers and lectures in numerous European countries as well as in Australia, China, Taiwan, and Costa Rica. Grossman received three Fulbright Senior Scholar Awards and a German Marshall Fund Research Fellowship. She has received the Silver Medal of the European Council for Rural Law and several awards from the American Agricultural Law Association. She has spent three sabbatical years at Wageningen University, The Netherlands, and is a fellow of the Wageningen School of Social Sciences.

www.illinois.edu



Professor (ETHZ) Dr Gerald HAUG

President, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Halle (Saale), Germany

Gerald Haug is a paleoclimatologist, marine geologist and paleoceanographer. Since 2020, he is President of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. Since 2015, Gerald Haug is Director of the Department of Climate Geochemistry at the Max-Planck-Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany and Professor of Climate Geochemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, Switzerland. He chairs the Science Advisory Board of the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) in Bremerhaven and the Science Advisory Board of the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research (PIK) and is active in different other science-related bodies and is a fellow of several academies of sciences and arts.

www.leopoldina.org



Professor Dirk INZÉ

VIB-UGent Center for Plant Systems Biology, Ghent, Belgium

Dirk Inzé is a global leader in plant biology and an ISI 'most cited author'. His research ambition is to obtain a holistic understanding of the molecular networks regulating plant organ growth and crop productivity. His work has opened up new perspectives for the identification of optimal growth regulatory networks that can be selected by advanced breeding, or for which more robust variants can be obtained through genetic engineering. As such, Inzé's work significantly contributes to providing food security for the growing world population.

Dirk Inzé received his PhD at Ghent in 1984. In 1990, he was appointed Research Director of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), where he initiated highly successful research programs on the plant cell cycle and growth control. In 1995, he became Professor at Ghent University and he was the scientific founder of the biotechnology company CropDesign, which was established in 1998 and acquired in 2006 by BASF Plant Science. In 2002, Dirk was appointed Director of the Center for Plant Systems Biology of the VIB. Under his directorship, the Center for Plant Systems Biology – currently employing approximately 300 individuals – became one of the world leading centers for advanced plant sciences. His research was recognized by numerous awards and he is a member of several science advisory boards. He currently owns, for the second time, an advanced ERC grant and his work received >51,000 citations (H-factor 131). In 2017, Inzé was awarded with the prestigious World Agriculture Prize. In 2019 he was elected to the rank of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

www.psb.ugent.be



Professor Tetsuya ISHII

Office of Health and Safety, Hokkaido University, Japan

Tetsuya Ishii is a bioethicist and Professor at the Office of Health and Safety, Hokkaido University, Japan. He is interested in the relationship between biotechnology and society, as well as in biotechnology regulations. He is a member of three committees, including GM crop committee, at Science Council of Japan. Ishii gives a lecture on livestock raiser training organized by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. He has also talked at the International Summit on Human Genome Editing.

www.global.hokudai.ac.jp



Dr Petra JORASCH

Manager Plant Breeding Innovation Advocacy, Euroseeds, Brussels, Belgium

Petra Jorasch is a professional with a profound knowledge of the plant breeding sector and a strong professional network with relevant stakeholders in the German and EU industrial, scientific and political fields, as well as the relevant associations in Germany, the EU and internationally. She is an internationally recognized expert with more than 19 years of experience in, and a deep knowledge of, policy frameworks for seeds, biotechnology and access and use of plant genetic resources as well as the relevant intellectual property protection systems.

She holds a PhD in plant molecular biology from the University of Hamburg and became an IP Expert at GFPi Service Ltd., a company that supports the German breeding industry on questions of IP and technology transfer.

From 2014 until 2017, Petra Jorasch was the Vice Secretary General of the German Plant Breeders' Association (BDP). During her career she developed solid experience in biotech patent law and plant variety, as well as in regulatory issues concerning modern plant breeding methods.

Petra joined Euroseeds in February 2017 as the spokesperson for the EU plant breeding sector on modern plant breeding methods and innovative technologies. She is an internationally requested expert for presentations and discussions on the mentioned topics.

www.euroseeds.eu



Dr Sabine JÜLICHER

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE),
European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Sabine Jülicher is Director for food and feed safety, innovation in the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety. She is responsible for policies relating to food information & composition, food processing technologies, novel foods, biotechnology, pesticides, biocides, veterinary medicines & animal nutrition.

www.ec.europa.eu/info/departments/health-and-food-safety_en



Professor Dr Alexandra-Maria KLEIN

Chair of Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology,
University of Freiburg, Germany

Alexandra-Maria Klein's main research focuses on biodiversity and ecosystem functions mediated by macro-organisms, e.g. pollination, herbivory, seed dispersal, seed predation and parasitism of insects and started with research on the importance of insect pollination for coffee in Indonesia in 1998. She aims to understand the effects of global environmental changes and uncertainties on the relationship between biodiversity, ecosystem functions and agricultural production and crop quality. She especially contributes to the understanding of species' interaction, complementation and facilitation of each other in order to improve the delivery of ecosystem services. Alexandra was a member of IPBES report on pollinators and of the EASAC report on the potential effects of Neonicotinoids and agro-ecosystem services and is currently co-leading the Leopoldina report on biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. She is the vice president of the German Ecological Society and works with several memberships to advice policy at the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg and at the national level. She is a member of the DFG senate commissions for biodiversity and for genetic research and she works for the Evaluation Panel Division in Biology and Medicine of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

www.nature.uni-freiburg.de



Professor Martin LEMA

National University of Quilmes, Bernal, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Martin Lema is Adjunct Professor in the Biotechnology School of the National University of Quilmes, Argentina, with 20 years of academic experience in teaching, research, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship. He has 15 years of experience as a policymaker in agricultural biotechnology, including eight years as former Director of Biotechnology in the Argentine Government, and former Chair of its National Biosafety Commission. Among other achievements, he managed to have this Commission recognized as FAO center of Reference, and issued the first ad hoc regulation for genome editing applied to agriculture in the world. Lema has extensive experience as technical lead of the Argentine delegations to biotechnology-related negotiations (CBD, Cartagena Protocol, WTO, CODEX, CBD, WTO, OECD, FAO), and several bilateral dialogues, including the EU-Argentine dialogue on Agricultural biotechnology derived from the Mutually Agreed Solution of the WTO dispute on GMOs. He has 27 technical and scientific publications on different aspects of biotechnology (research, education, policymaking, biosafety).

www.unq.edu.ar/english



Associate Professor Karinne LUDLOW

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Karinne Ludlow, B.Sc., LLB., Ph.D. (Monash University), is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia. Her research focuses on the integration of science, commercialisation challenges and law, in all their applications including health, agriculture and industry. Ludlow has provided advice to Australian Federal and state governments and the UN FAO on the regulation of innovative technologies, including as lead author of reports commissioned by the Australian Government on preparing regulatory frameworks for nanotechnology and preparing those frameworks for innovation more generally. Her research interests include the regulation of genome editing in food and agriculture as well as government funded research on inheritable genetic modification of human embryos (including the use of mitochondrial donation and genome editing) and the use of genomics in addressing mitochondrial disease.

www.monash.edu



Dr Monika MESSMER

FiBL Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick, Switzerland

Monika Messmer holds a PhD in plant breeding (1993). For six years she worked as a scientist in cereal breeding at Agroscope, before joining the start-up company VitaPlant AG on medicinal plant breeding. Since 2009, she is leading the plant breeding & cultivar testing team at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland. Her main focus of research is breeding for mixed cropping systems and for plant microbe interaction. She is president of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO – PB, www.eco-pb.org), board member of the EUCARPIA section for Organic and Low-Input Agriculture, board member of Bioverita (www.bioverita.eu), member of the IFOAM Seed Platform and the IFOAM EU seed expert group. She is engaged in legume breeding, participatory cotton breeding (www.sgf-cotton.org) and the scientific coordinator of the EU project LIVESEED (www.liveseed.eu).

www.fibl.org/en/locations/switzerland.html



Pablo Ivan OROZCO

Cornell Alliance for Science, Ithaca, NY, USA

Pablo Orozco is the Global Policy Lead for Cornell University's Alliance for Science. He is an attorney with a background in international trade and aid law, having worked both in public and private positions to promote a science-based policy approach in shaping government. In his current role, Orozco follows policy in biosafety frameworks and facilitates trainings in Science Communication that seek to empower pro-science voices, promoting access to scientific innovation. Through his work with the AFS, Orozco gained experience with the United Nations framework for multilateral environmental negotiations, having participated at the conference of the parties for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its sub-agreements as well as the party's intercessional meetings since 2016. He led the first delegation of Cornell University's Alliance for Science fellows for the United Nations' Biodiversity Conference in Egypt in 2018.

<https://allianceforscience.cornell.edu>



Pekka PESONEN

**Secretary-General, Copa & Cogeca European Farmers' Associations,
Brussels, Belgium**

Pekka Pesonen is the Secretary General of Copa, representing European farmers, and Cogeca, representing European agri-cooperatives, which together count more than 70 national farming organisations from across Europe. Previously, he worked as State Secretary for the Finnish Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, Pesonen has extensive professional experience in lobbying at EU level on behalf of Finnish farmers, forest owners (MTK and SLC) and agri-forestry cooperatives (Pellervo). In the 1990s, he worked in the sales and marketing department of Valio, a Finnish dairy company. Pesonen has also been a member of several high-level advisory groups concerning EU policy preparation. He is a qualified agronomist and is married with three teenage children.

www.copa-cogeca.eu



Dr Lonneke POORT

**Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam &
The Netherlands Commission on Genetic Modification, Bilthoven,
The Netherlands**

Lonneke Poort is Associate Professor at Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. She is involved in teaching methodology and law and ethics. Her expertise concerns the regulation of GMOs, the interactive approach to law, regulating controversial moral issues and the role of experts in law-making. Poort is member of the Dutch Committee on Genetic Modification.

www.eur.nl | www.cogem.net/en



Professor Dr Martin QAIM

**Professor of International Food Economics and Rural Development,
Georg-August-University of Göttingen, Germany**

Matin Qaim is Professor of International Food Economics and Rural Development at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Before, he had research and teaching positions at the Universities of Hohenheim, Bonn, Kiel, and California at Berkeley. He holds a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from the University of Bonn. His main research areas relate to the economics of food security, sustainable food systems, and smallholder agriculture. He has research and project experience in Europe, the USA, and numerous countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Qaim has over 200 academic publications, mostly in top disciplinary and interdisciplinary science journals. He is member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and was recently recognized as Fellow of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). He has served on different high-level expert committees, including for the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Africa Harvest, and the German Federal Ministry of Nutrition and Agriculture.

www.uni-goettingen.de/en



Professor Dr Sabine SCHLACKE

Institute for Environmental and Planning Law, University of Münster, Germany

Sabine Schlacke is Professor of Public Law with a focus on construction, planning and environmental law. She is Executive Director of the Institute of Environmental and Planning Law and the Central Institute for Spatial Planning.

Schlacke studied law at the Universities of Göttingen and Lausanne, followed by a doctorate from the University of Bremen and a habilitation at Rostock University. Prior to her position at University of Münster, she held the professorship of Public Law at Bremen University (2007 – 2013). Since 2008 she is member and since 2016 Co-chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change, which provides the Federal Government with flagship reports and policy papers. Since 2019 she is also consulting the German Federal Government as Co-chair of the steering committee of the scientific platform Climate Protection. Besides, she is vice-chair of the German Association for Environmental Law. Since 2019, she is member of the National Academy of Science and Engineering. Schlacke is editor-in chief of the Journal of Environmental Law (*Zeitschrift für Umweltrecht, ZUR*) since 2004. In addition to her research and teaching activities, she is also Vice-President of the constitutional court of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen.

www.uni-muenster.de/en



Dr Stuart SMYTH

University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Stuart Smyth is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan, where he holds the Agri-Food Innovation and Sustainability Enhancement Chair. His research focuses on sustainability, agriculture, innovation and food. Smyth publishes a weekly blog on these topics at: www.SAIFood.ca. Recent publications include authored books with William Kerr and Peter Phillips, *GM Agriculture and Food Security: Fears and Facts*, published by CABI (2019) and *Biotechnology Regulation and Trade*, published by Springer (2017).

www.usask.ca



Professor Piet VAN DER MEER

Ghent University & Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Piet van der Meer is trained as a biologist and a lawyer at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. From 1988 to 1999, he was in charge of biosafety/GMO regulation in the Netherlands during which he was also actively involved in many international and EU fora. From 1999 to 2002, he managed the project “Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks of the pre-accession countries in Central and Eastern Europe”. From December 2002 to May 2004, he was the programme manager of the UNEP-GEF projects on Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks. Since August 2004, Piet van der Meer operates as an independent consultant, offering consulting and management services in the fields of international and national environmental policies and regulations, with a particular specialisation on biotechnology regulation. His main clients are governments and international organisations. Over the years, Piet van der Meer has provided scientific and regulatory support for biotechnology regulation in over 50 countries and to many national and international organisations. Since 2006, he teaches biotechnology regulation as a guest professor at the University of Ghent, Belgium, and as of 2014 also at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

www.ugent.be/en

www.vub.be/en



Professor Dr Justus WESSELER

Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy Group, Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Justus Wesseler holds the chair in Agricultural Economics and Rural Policy at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. He has a degree in agricultural, environmental and natural resource economics from the University of Göttingen, Germany. His research work is on bioeconomy economics and policies. The major focus is on the contribution of value chains to improve sustainability and the impact of new technologies and regulations on the value chain in this respect. He is member of the International Consortium of Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR) and editor of the Palgrave series on bioeconomy economics and policies. He has been involved in a number of small- and large-scale international research projects as team member and/or coordinator. Currently he is the coordinator of the EU funded project Monitoring the Bioeconomy (BioMonitor).

www.wur.nl/en

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MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE ORGANISERS

The **Leopoldina** originated in 1652 as a classical scholarly society and now has 1,600 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.

The Leopoldina champions the freedom and appreciation of science on both the national and the international level. It is her role to identify and analyse scientific issues of social importance. The Leopoldina presents its policy recommendations in a scientifically qualified, independent, transparent and prospective manner, ever mindful of the standards and consequences of science.

www.leopoldina.org

The **DFG** is the self-governing organisation for science and research in Germany. It serves all branches of science and the humanities. In organisational terms, the DFG is an association under private law. Its membership consists of German research universities, non-university research institutions, scientific associations and the Academies of Science and the Humanities.

The DFG receives the large majority of its funds from the federal government and the states, which are represented in all grants committees. At the same time, the voting system and procedural regulations guarantee science-driven decisions.

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