

ECOFAIR TRADE DIALOGUE

International conference and strategic meeting:

FIGHTING HUNGER – TOWARDS AN ECOFAIR APPROACH ON TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

International conference

Date: Wednesday 6th - Thursday 7th October 2010

Venue : Michnův Palace, Ujezd 450, 110 00 Prague 1

Strategy meeting

Date: Friday 8th October 2010

Venue: Klub Lávka, Novotného lávka 201/1, 11000 Prague 1

Registration: Please register by filling in the electronic registration form at praskova@glopolis.org

Conference Languages : Interpretation will be organized in Czech, English and French

Information: You would have any question, do not hesitate to contact **Dagmar Milerova Praskova** by email praskova@glopolis.org or by telephone, +420 272 66 11 32

Background:



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Several driving forces are nowadays transforming agro-food systems worldwide, sometimes pulling in very different directions and at very different paces. Long disregarded, small-scale farmers, particularly women, have been recognized by the international community central to food security strategies. Agro-ecological farming is also recognized key in mitigation and adaptation to climate change as it preserves natural resources. Equally made important is the necessity to stabilize agricultural commodity markets and to support regional market integration and strategies. Furthermore, more democratic governance over agro-food systems is underway with the newly reformed committee on food security. In Europe, consumers tend to change their patterns of consumption towards higher quality, bio, and locally produced food.

Yet, several policy decisions (being national, regional or global) contradict or undermine these positive transformations. In addition to trade agreements, foreign investments, rather than agricultural and food security policies, are increasingly and rapidly defining how food is produced in developing countries, by who for who's benefit. The need for investments against land leasing, or foreign exchange reserves from export crops often outweigh human rights, livelihoods and nature in the balance of interests of developing countries' governments. Similarly, although committed to improving its policy coherence for development, the European Union and its member states, through its trade, energy or common agriculture policy, do impact, in a negative way, the life of poor communities in developing countries.

Hence the questions on how to give more strength and weight to right-based, alternative forces empowering the poor to be more in control over food production and markets and protecting the natural base from which we live? How to make policies, particularly EU's Common Agriculture Policy soon to be reformed, more coherent with these and fair for European farmers?

We would like to cordially invite you in Prague, on October 6-7th to reflect on these questions and draw some paths of reflection and action.



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DAY 1: Hunger, poverty and Europe's Agriculture and Trade Policy coherence

09:00-10:00 Registration

10:00-10:15 Openings

10:15-12:00 **Panel discussion: How can MDG1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) get back on track? What kind of agricultural and rural development do we need and what role does trade play for getting out of hunger and poverty?**

Louiza Kabiru, Kenya Human Rights Commission, Kenya

Ranja Sengupta, Centre for Trade and Development, India

Arze Glipo, Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines

12:00-13:15 Lunch

13:15-14:30 **How does CAP relate to development? What does drive and limit its reforms?**

Niek Koning, Wageningen University – Limits and drivers of CAP

Tobias Reichert, Germanwatch – CAP and development links

14:30-16:00 **Parallel workshops on policy coherence for development– Making the CAP fairer, greener and globally responsible**

Workshop 1- Reforming the Common Agriculture Policy: what is on the table?

Numerous stakeholders of the CAP are proposing a new vision and tools for the CAP.

What are the proposals made by European civil society actors (development actors in particular) to make CAP fair, environmentally sustainable and globally responsible? What are the common demands and what are the points of divides? Is it possible to speak with one voice?

Tom Lines, Consultant for CONCORD European Food Security Group (EFSG), United Kingdom



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Workshop 2- Focus on European imports: how feeding farm animals and fueling cars does impact on the poor and the environment?

Europe imports 37 million tons of protein rich ingredients (like soy beans), for the production of animal feed. It amounts to 78% of the total EU consumption of feedstuff. It also counts on developing countries capacity to reach its targets on agrofuels. Is this demand, primarily met by Argentina and Brazil for soy, beneficial to the development of these countries? And how does it impact on climate change, biodiversity and the European agricultural model?

Mute Schimpf, Food Campaigner, Friends of Earth Europe

Action Aid, tbc.

Workshop 3: Focus on European exports: What are the impacts of the European milk crisis at home and abroad?

The EU is the largest producer of milk. One fifth of its exports reach the African continent that face a large deficit in milk production, but where local production is a driver of poverty alleviation and development. What are the impacts of European powder milk on local market? How to prevent negative effects while improving the price level for European farmer themselves who faced an unprecedented low prices in 2009?

Maurice Oudet, Priest in Kiembara, Burkina Faso

Sonja Korspeter, European Milk Board, Germany

16:00-16.30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 **Panel Discussion: Impacts of CAP, focus on the Vision for the Future CAP**

How can the CAP be made more coherent with food security solutions highlighted in the morning? Where are the conflicts of interests? Why do they exist? What kind of subsidies do we need for a development friendly and sustainable CAP?

Gérard Choplin, European Coordination Via Campesina, Brussels

Korotoumou Gariko Sanogo, ROPPA- West African Farmers Network, Burkina Faso

Jiří Šír, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic



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DAY 2: Transforming agro-food systems worldwide

09:00-09:15 Introduction

09:15-10:00 **A strategy for change – EcoFair Answers for sustainable agricultural trade rules**

In a changing agricultural world fair and sustainable trade rules have become even more important. EcoFair principles as a frame of reference for such trade rules.

Christine Chemnitz, *Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Germany*

10:00-11:30 **Interview Panel: Implementing EcoFair Rules in a diverse world**

Which challenges do EcoFair Rules face at a time when the EU is reforming her Common Agricultural Policy, negotiating further free trade agreements with developing countries and commodity markets experience increased volatility through speculation?

Alexandra Strickner, *tbc.*

Tom Lines, *Consultant for CONCORD European Food Security Group, UK*

Ranja Sengupta, *Centre for Trade and Development, India*

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-14:30 **Parallel workshops: Pillars of the Paradigm Shift**

Workshop 1: Human Rights, the tool to reform trade policy? Trade Policy as space for development or protectionist tool for developed countries? Trade and investment agreements can limit policy spaces of States in such a way that governments get unable to protect and fulfil social human rights of their citizens, such as the right to food, to water etc. How can human rights impact assessments help to limit negative impact and strengthen democratic control and accountability for effects of these agreements?

Armin Paasch, *Misereor*

Louiza Kabiru, *Kenya Human Rights Commission*



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Workshop 2: Investing in agriculture - increasing control over resources? Land acquisition or agrarian reform? How to increase control of poor communities, especially women, over natural resources?

Hellen Yego, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Kenya

Roman Herre, FIAN

Workshop 3: Greening models of production. Can ecological modes of production feed the world? How to qualify sustainable agriculture? What kind of mix of models of production is necessary/desirable? Does the farm size matter? Is the transfer of agro-ecological knowledge North-South or South-North?

Sagari Ramdas, Anthra, India

Nitya Ghotge, Anthra, India

Ion Toncea, Romanian Agriculture for Sustainable Agriculture (ARAD),

tbc

Workshop 4: Stable and remunerative prices. How may farmers live from food prices? Which market tools do help stabilizing prices? Are alternatives possible in niche markets only (traditional, bio products) or is it possible to adapt the mainstream food system?

Ruth Fe Salditos, Panay Fair Trade Center, Philippines

Konstantin Zhgenti, Association of Business Consulting Organization, Georgia

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

15:00-15:30 **Feedback from workshops: What kind of policy change is necessary?**

15:30-17:00 **Panel discussion: Which role for civil society, which opportunities to run the transformations?**

Alexandra Strickner, tbc.

Gérard Choplin, European Coordination Via Campesina, Brussels

17:00 Drink



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