



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Brussels, 14 September 2011

**Conference on "Scientific Support for Food Security and Global Governance"
Brussels, 28 September 2011
Venue: Charlemagne Building, Room De Gasperi**

1. Objective of the Conference on "Scientific support for Food Security and Global Governance"

The main objective of the Conference on "Scientific support for Food Security and Global Governance" is to examine the scientific needs for reconciling the necessity to increase production and competitiveness while respecting sustainable development in the framework of global governance.

The conference will identify and debate key questions relating to food security, with a specific focus on scientific needs, that is to say where and how science, technology and innovation will contribute to food for all.

Moreover, the conference will aim at giving further audience to the increasing necessity to pursue sustained efforts in this area. This implies both the will to alleviate the impact of recurring crises and the determination to develop long term relevant policies. Interventions by high level representatives of international organisations, key producer countries, stakeholders and EU political figures are foreseen.

The conference will also give resonance to the desire of the European Union to engage into a series of actions that will contribute to improving the world food situation in a sustainable manner.

2. Global context on Food Security

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the UK Government Office for Science (Foresight) co-organised on 30 March 2011 in Brussels a High Level Seminar on "Future of Global Food and Farming: How can Science Support Food Security?" European policy makers, scientists and practitioners debated the impediments and choices for global food security driven by the expanding world population and the need to develop sustainable agriculture minimizing the over-exploitation of natural resources and the impact of climate change.

The conclusions of this conference have underlined the needs for developing and using a new common data and modelling system. The European Union and other international partners have insufficient or sets of data that are not up to date on many topics, such as farming systems.

There is also a need for strong innovation programmes. Emphasis was put on the necessity to invest much more in science and innovation, particularly with a view to increasing production significantly considering the problem of hunger.

The main challenge is to reconcile the necessity to increase production and productivity while respecting the environment and the imperative of sustainable development. It is necessary to develop a multidisciplinary approach and integrated knowledge at the crossroads between agriculture, science, environment and social impact.

Most of the speakers have insisted on the urgency of a strategic approach towards ensuring food security and global governance of the food system. Urgent action is needed to cope with the accelerated pace of changes in today's global world.

New political developments have also taken place. The meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers in Paris, 22 and 23 June 2011 underlined that Food security will remain a critical issue for the international community.

The situation is worrying, especially in developing countries, and many challenges remain. World population is projected to reach more than nine billion by the middle of this century.

All countries have stressed the need for improved and more effective agriculture policies at the global and national levels, better international coordination and concrete implementation of political commitments to promote food security and sustainable agricultural production.

The Agriculture Ministers have agreed on an Action Plan which puts emphasis on:

- Improving agricultural production and productivity both in the short and long term in order to respond to a growing demand for agricultural commodities;
- Increasing market information and transparency in order to better anchor expectations from governments and economic operators;
- Strengthening international policy coordination in order to enhance confidence in international markets and to prevent and respond to food market crises more efficiently;
- Improving and developing risk management tools for governments, firms and farmers in order to build capacity to manage and mitigate the risks associated with food price volatility, in particularly in the poorest countries;
- Improving the functioning of agricultural commodities' derivatives markets.

The conference will foster a debate on these issues and highlight the contribution of science in policy making at EU and global level on food security aspects.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

8:30 - 9:15: Registration of participants

9:15 - 10:30 Opening session: Why does an adequate and stable food supply require global measures?

Invited speakers:

- *Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science*

- *Ministry of Agriculture, Poland*

- *Marion Guillou, Présidente Directrice-Générale de l'Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique – INRA*

- *Ann Tutwiler, Vice Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO)*

Moderator: Dominique Ristori, Director-General, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission

10:30 - 11:30 First session: Agricultural production and sustainability: Will availability and access to resources (land, water) be the key determinants in future patterns of food production?

Invited speakers:

- *Joseph Alcamo, United Nations, Chief Scientist, United Nations Environment Programme*

- *Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General, Copa-Cogeca (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations - General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives)*

- *Monty P. Jones, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, co-winner of the 2004 World Food Prize*

Moderator: Mikael Karlsson, President, European Environmental Bureau

11:30 - 12:30 Second session: Market information and transparency, food prices volatility in particular in the poorest countries.

Invited speakers:

- *HE Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States*

- *Eija Pehu, Senior Adviser, Agricultural and Rural Development Department, World Bank*

- *Joachim von Braun, Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung der Uni Bonn, Agrarökonom und früherer Direktor des International, Food Policy Research Institute*

- Jacques Delincé, Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre: GLOBCAST project and presentation of the main conclusions on June Springer book on volatility

Moderator: Cristian Hera, Vice President Romanian Academy

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Third session: Global governance: Can a better governance of food supply and demand be the most efficient path to food security?

Invited speakers:

- Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development
- Gordon Conway, Imperial College Centre for Environment Policy
- Phil Bloomer, Director of Campaigns and Policy, OXFAM

Moderator: John Bensted-Smith, Director Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

15:00 – 16:00 Fourth session: The need for innovation: Where and how will science and technology, including bioeconomy, contribute to food for all?

Invited speakers:

- Roger Genet, Directeur Général du Centre du Machinisme Agricole, du Génie Rural, des Eaux et Forêts, (CEMAGREF)
- Maive Rute, Director for Biotechnologies, Agriculture and Food, Research and Innovation DG, European Commission
- David Wilkinson, Director, Joint Research Centre: GAM (Global Agriculture Monitoring) with MARS

Moderator: Professor Sir Brian Heap, President, European Academies Science Advisory Council, former Foreign Secretary, The Royal Society

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16:00 -17:00 Concluding Session

Invited speakers:

- Dacian Cioloş, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Sir John Beddington, UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser
- Dominique Ristori, Director-General, DG Joint Research Centre, European Commission