



European
GMO-Free
Regions
NETWORK

INVITATION

Workshop of the European GMOfree Regions Network: GMO-free Labelling of Food – Searching for a common European approach

**5th December 2016
12.00 – 15.30 h
Representation of North
Rhine-Westphalia
Rue Montoyer 47,
1000 Brussels**

While there is virtually no cultivation of genetically modified crops in most European states, GMOs are still widely used in animal feed and in food processing. However, many consumers want their food to be produced entirely free from genetic modification.

In this situation, GMO-free labelling has proven an effective instrument to promote entirely GM-free food chains, thus ensuring that consumers interests are met, and creating business opportunities for GM free producers.

Approaches towards labelling differ considerably between the member states. While labels are widely used in some countries, they are non-existent in others. The requirements that products have to fulfil for obtaining a label also vary between countries.

The European GMO-free Regions Network sees a clear necessity for a common European approach to GMO-free labelling, which provides all participants in the food chain with transparent and equal standards across the borders. A harmonised system would ensure and enhance consumer confidence. It would also encourage GM-free production, especially in countries where labelling systems have not yet been established.

At the conference, different national labelling systems will be presented and the need for a common European approach will be discussed.

German-English translation will be provided

With your registration you give consent that your name and organisation will be included in the participant list, and that images of you may be published in the context of news coverage or online. If you do not agree to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please register at:
[**event.NRW@lv-eu.nrw.de**](mailto:event.NRW@lv-eu.nrw.de)



Programme:

- 12:00 Registration and light lunch
- 13:00 Welcome:
Rainer Steffens, Head of Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Keynote:
Horst Becker, Parliamentary State Secretary,
 President of the European GMO-free Regions Network
- 13:20 Experiences and plans in different countries:
Germany: Alexander Hissting, Managing Director Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik (VLOG), Berlin
France: Arnaud Apoteker, DAC Consulting Agency, GMO expert
Poland: Dorota Metera, President of the Board of Bioekspert Ltd.
The „Vienna Declaration“: a call for a common European approach.
NN, ARGE Gentechnik-Frei, Vienna
- 14:10 Coffee and communication break
- 14:30 Panel Discussion:
The challenge of harmonizing GMO-free Labelling
Anna Casini, Minister Region Marche,
 Vice-President of the European GMO-free Regions Network
NN, ARGE Gentechnik-Frei, Vienna
Eric Gall, Deputy Director IFOAM EU Group
Marijana Petir, Member of the European Parliament,
 Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and
 Substitute of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
Representant of Friesland-Campina (tbc)
Moderator:
Dr.Tanja Busse, Journalist, Hamburg
- 15:30 End of the event