



Official Participant

Report Template for Events at EXPO

organised in the frame of the Week of DG AGRI stakeholders' at Expo Milano

Event Title :	"Is the EU on the right path towards long-term food security?"	Date:	14/09/2015
Event Organiser:	European Environmental Bureau- BirdLife Europe		
Event Target Group:	Stakeholders (farmers, young farmers, other NGOs (environment but also consumers, health, etc) Decision makers Scientists		
Rapporteur (name and email address):	Charlotte Lepitre, policy assistant (she has left the EEB meanwhile as her contract ended)- so the contact points are now: Faustine.bas-defossez@eeb.org or trees.robijns@birdlife.org		

Event Concept

Our event was about making people understand what is at stake: food security in the EU is not only about feeding people worldwide, it is about ensuring that we provide European citizens with healthy and nutritious food that can be produced not just today but also tomorrow. It is about securing long term healthy food production capacity and hence above all protecting natural resources farming relies upon.

With our event we aimed at highlighting first the environmental risks that are currently undermining Europe's long term food security and second show the role that policies, often contradicting policies, play in trying to deal with this issue (or not). We wanted to provide the participants with space for discussion and exchange and confront different views: those of NGOs, scientists, farmers, health organisations etc...

Finally, we wanted to set the scene for the future (policies post 2020) and propose solutions that will then be discussed with the participants.

Expected Outcomes

A common understanding of long term food security challenges (decline of natural resources) and the need to address them.

An identification of contradictions between policies.

Preliminary thoughts and reflexions for the future policy framework (post 2020)

Lively debate involving many stakeholders and decision makers.

Main Conclusions

- The conference reminded us about how much money we are talking about (size of the CAP budget), about the environmental challenges and how they threaten EU long term food security. It also became clear that despite this big potential (public money) CAP is not well securing long term food security and brought up some emerging evidence about the CAP's greening failures.
- The conference highlighted the need to develop a sustainable food and farming policy framework that avoids food waste, promotes agroecology and rewards public goods delivered by farmers. A

framework that ensures more coherence between production and consumption.

- It was also agreed that a lot can be done today with what we know (existing research and science), however, there is a need for more data gathering on the impacts of farming on the environment at plot levels and how policy (CAP) is contributing to it (like the LISA study that was presented and that needs to continue post 2015 –to capture whether the CAP greening is contributing or not to improving biodiversity)
- There was strong awareness in the room that food habits can and must change, that meat consumption needs to be reduced and that we pay the real price of food.
- Overall the conference also ended by reminding participants how important communication is between different groups (between farmers and environmentalists for instance and between scientists – farmers and environmentalists)

(Note from an organisational point of view: it was unfortunate that not more participants were there, indeed the room was mostly filled in with environmental NGOs representatives (who already agreed with each others) and a couple of others. It would have been better to have more farmers, more Commission's representatives, more non environmentally focused NGOs (consumers, health..) but despite several trials this did not work.)

What follow-up actions emerged from this event?

With our conference it became clear that there is a need for an in depth evaluation of the CAP, its greening and its impact on biodiversity, soil, water etc against a baseline scenario at farm level and that there is a need for more discussion and more research on how a sustainable food policy should look like concretely.

Concretely, follow up events on CAP greening evaluation and sustainable food policy already took place shortly after and are still happening.