

Previous editions of *Let's Liberate Diversity!*

1. The first forum *Let's Liberate diversity!* was organized by the Réseau Semences Paysannes (Peasants' Seed Network) and the National Coordination for the Defense of Farm-Saved Seeds (CNDSF) in November 2005 in Poitiers, France. The 150 participants, farmers and associations have exchanged on the rights of farmers linked to the production, exchange and conservation of seeds. The forum was followed by a strategy session on seeds, GMOs and GMO-free regions in the European Parliament in February 2006.

Information:

http://www.semencespaysannes.org/images/imagesFCK/file/publications/cr_diversite_angl.pdf

2. The second edition of *Let's Liberate Diversity!* was held in Bullas, Spain, in the organization of the Red de Semillas in October 2006. The main point of discussion on the agenda of this meeting was the bill of the European Directive on conservation varieties. Forum participants asked in a joint letter sent to European Commission a legislation more adapted to the needs of farmers.

Information:

http://www.biodiversidadla.org/content/download/32801/153880/version/1/file/LIBEREMOS_DIVERSIDAD.pdf

3. The third forum, *Let's Liberate Diversity!* held in Halle, Germany, organized jointly by the BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy, IG Saatgut (Network of GMO-free seeds) and the European Civic Forum in May 2007. Based on the example of GM wheat trials in the gene bank of Gatersleben near Halle the organizers wished to draw attention to the contamination of gene banks by genetically modified organisms. An important result of this meeting was a step forward in structuring the European Coordination of Farmers' Seeds.

Information:

http://www.gentechnikfreie-saat.de/Downloads/Flyer_programmenglisch.pdf

http://www.biopiraterie.de/fileadmin/pdf/Saatgut-Tagung_Halle/Docu_Halle_2007_en_.pdf

4. In October 2008 the honor of hosting the next edition of *Let's Liberate Diversity!* fell to Italy. Organized by the Rete Semi Rurali in collaboration with the European organizing committee created in Halle, the forum was held in Ascoli in the Marche region. Farmers' rights and the enhancement of crop biodiversity were the main topics discussed.

Information:

http://www.semirurali.net/modules/rete/index.php?content_id=26

5. Following a short break, the *Let's Liberate Diversity!* series continued in Graz, Austria, in March 2010. On this occasion the organizers, including Arche Noah and Via Campesina Austria, chose to focus on themes such as reform of European legislation on seeds (Better Regulation process), intellectual property rights, animal biodiversity and initiatives from Central and Eastern Europe.

Information:

<http://www.liberate-diversity-graz2010.org/>

The European Coordination for Farmers' Seeds – Let's Liberate Diversity!

Already at the first European Forum *Let's Liberate Diversity!* in Poitiers, France, the idea has emerged on the creation of a European network committed to the conservation and renewal of crop biodiversity in farms and gardens. First, an informal network has been established with the aim to organize exchanges among different countries / partners and develop joint strategies at the European level. The next meetings helped to crystallize the political foundations of the European network. The development of the charter containing the network's political principles is underway and the first common position on the reform of EU legislation on seeds (Better Regulation process) supported by several national networks in Europe has been drafted.

The main objectives of the European Coordination for Farmers' Seeds are:

- Exchanging information and experiences between member organizations at the European level as well as partners outside of Europe, particularly in the Mediterranean region.
- Strengthening initiatives at the national level through networking at the European level
- Developing common positions and advocacy directed towards the European Commission and various international institutions, including the secretariat of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Informing the public