

JOINT AGREEMENT

between  
**the Network of the GMO-free European Regions**  
and  
**Slow Food International**

*to promote the culture of food and the sustainability of agricultural practices*

Current economic development models are pushing societies toward a standardization of life styles. This general approach is leading some governments to follow this trend by implementing policies without adequately assessing risks to citizens and to the environment.

Agriculture is one of the economic sectors that best represents this situation: this activity is extremely important for humans but it also can negatively affect the environment and the landscape. The optimal balance is not easy to achieve, but several experiences show us that is possible to obtain sustainable agrifood production that allows a good return for farmers and provides healthy and tasty food for the consumer.

Practical examples of this come from organic agriculture, regional quality production, multifunctionality of farms, farmers' markets, etc.

Increasing and maintaining these vital practices is possible if we enhance and spread the culture of sustainability in our society and the culture of mutual aid between rich and poor countries.

This means also that every new technology and product should be assessed in depth before entering in the common use.

With these considerations and subject to our means, scope and institutional competences, we agree to jointly develop initiatives to:

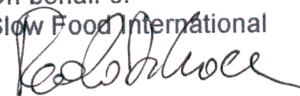
- Highlight the importance of food quality for the wellbeing of human life;
- Protect the biological diversity and the food diversity;
- Promote the use of GMO-free products;
- Inform consumers about potential adverse effects in using GMOs;
- Support the development of GMO-free quality production chains;
- Inform consumers about any opportunity to find a good food at fair prices;
- Encourage farmers to continue to produce certified safe, quality, environmentally sensitive products by urging the EC to include incentives in the CAP and ensuring adequate Programming Period funding;
- Urge a review of the authorization process of GMOs, with particular attention to the role played by scientific advisory bodies and to the scientific protocols currently used in the assessment process of GMOs in the EU;
- Promote the above mentioned points in the European Institutions;
- Request the reconsideration of the 0.9% contamination threshold for certified organic products and encourage adoption of the 0.1% threshold recommended by the EP.

In order to carry out these actions, a representative of Slow Food International will participate in the Working Groups on labelling of the GMO-free European Regions Network.

GONZALO SAENZ DE SAMANIEGO BERGANZO  
On behalf of the  
GMO-free European Regions Network



PAOLO DI CROCE  
On behalf of  
Slow Food International



Signed at the Salone del Gusto  
Turin, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2008