



Biotechnology, trade and the environment

A GEN-ICTSD roundtable

Wednesday, 19 May 2004, 14:00 – 17:15

International Environment House

Biotechnology ranks high on both environment and trade agendas. This year's environmental calendar featured the First Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Delegates met in Kuala Lumpur to adopt documentation requirements and other procedures for promoting the safety of international trade in genetically modified organisms (GMOs). At the WTO, Argentina, Canada and the US have launched a dispute against the EU's de facto moratorium on approving new GMOs.

These and related developments raise urgent questions. Will decisions taken under the Cartagena Protocol and the WTO remain consistent and mutually supportive? Can we strike the right balance between precaution and trade obligations? This roundtable will offer an informal setting for exploring these and other policy questions relating to GMOs.

Provisional programme

14:00 Coffee

14:15 Welcoming remarks by Franz Perrez, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
Introductory remarks by the moderator, Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD

14:30 Presentations by the panelists

- **Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** – Results of the First Meeting of the Parties, by François Pythoud, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape
- **International GMO trade and Regulatory conflicts: Implications for developing countries**, by Richard Stewart, Centre of Environmental and Land Use Law
- **The US-EU Biotech Dispute – assessing the legal aspects**, by Maria Julia Oliva, Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- **Biosafety, precaution and trade – conflict or convergence**, by Simon Barber, Director, Plant Biotechnology Unit, EuropaBio, Brussels
- **Codex and its relevance for the debate on trade and biotechnology**, by Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

16:00 Discussion

17:10 Wrap-up by the moderator



Panelists

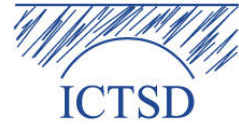
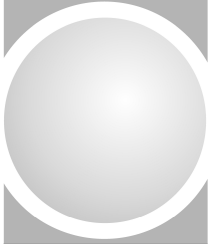
François Pythoud is plant biologist by training and holds a PhD in natural sciences. He has worked for the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape on biotechnology and biosafety related issues since 1990. He chaired the OECD working group on harmonization of regulatory oversight in biotechnology from 1997 to 2002. He was closely involved in the development of the Cartagena Protocol as the principal Swiss negotiator. He chaired the Commodities Contact Group during the final round of negotiations in January 2000 in Montreal. From 2000 to 2004, he was member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol. As vice-president of the 1st Meeting of the Parties, he chaired the Working group I in Kuala Lumpur.

Richard Stewart is University Professor and Director of the Centre of Environmental and Land Use Law. Stewart has served as a Byrne Professor of Administrative Law at Harvard Law School and a member of the faculty of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard; Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Environment and Natural Resource Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and Chairman of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Maria Julia Oliva is a Staff Attorney at CIEL, where she is team leader of the Project on Intellectual Property. She earned an LLM Degree in Environmental Law from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, where she graduated cum laude and was awarded first place in the Davis, Wright and Tremaine International Law Writing Competition. During this time, Ms. Oliva also interned at the Office of the Solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Previously, she earned her law degree at the University of Mendoza, in Argentina, where she also practiced law in the civil society sector.

Simon Barber, Director, Plant Biotechnology Unit, EuropaBio, Brussels, obtained his first degree (BSc) in Agricultural Botany from the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Gaining his postgraduate degree from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada, he then worked for 7 years in the oilseed rape (canola) breeding programme at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station in Saskatoon, Canada. He has also worked for the regulatory branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the OECD. In 1999 Simon joined EuropaBio, the European Bioindustries Association and has been working with companies using modern biological techniques in plant variety development.

Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, a professor of international law, is the Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the University of Geneva. She is also a Visiting Professor at Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Studies. Ms. Boisson de Chazournes serves as a consultant and an expert with the World Bank, World Health Organization, UN Development Programme, International Labour Organization, UN Environment Programme, and others, and she is the author of many publications.



REGISTRATION FORM

Roundtable on Biotechnology, trade and the environment

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You are cordially invited to participate in this roundtable. Owing to the limited number of seats available, please indicate your participation in advance by completing this form and returning it by 14 May 2004 to Ms. Fatma Gordon at the address below by fax, post or email (Fatma.gordon@unep.ch).

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____