



European Union

Official Participant

Preliminary Programme

International Conference Towards a Research Agenda for Global Food and Nutrition Security

*8 May 2015
Expo 2015, Milan*

Introduction

“Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” is one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. The theme of the Expo gets to the heart of issues that affect people in their daily lives. How to feed a growing world population and to ensure food and nutrition security for all is a priority for the EU, with several policy areas implicated: from agriculture to development, from food safety and consumer health to environmental protection, from industry to research and innovation.

The European Union's participation at Expo Milano 2015 represents much more than a cultural event. It will also be a platform for policy debate on global food and nutrition security. We want to use this opportunity of the unprecedented number of countries and international bodies coming together for an extended period of time to seek the international dialogue to enhance cooperation and to identify those research areas and innovative practices which would allow new ways of tackling food insecurity and its associated problems.

A European Union Scientific Steering Committee, launched by the European Commission and the European Parliament provides expert advice on the challenges of food and nutrition security and gives guidance on the programme of events for Expo 2015. The Committee presents today a [discussion paper](#), considering those areas where European research can add most value, to highlight priorities for research, development and innovation on the theme of global food security. A public consultation on this document was launched in April 2015. Ultimately, this discussion paper will serve as a major contribution to the EU legacy of Expo 2015 as it guides our future policy actions.

At today's high-level conference the European Union will focus the debate on how to feed the planet, and the role research, development and innovation can play to achieve this goal. The event will start with a key-note speech from the UN followed by a presentation of the discussion document by the Scientific Steering Committee and in-depth panel discussions on the seven research themes identified. Each panel will be introduced by a high-level European Commission representative. Distinguished experts from research institutes both within and outside the EU as well as from the private sector and civil society will be invited to share their views. The discussion will already take into consideration first results of the public consultation.

This event will be the official launch of a series of discussions that the Scientific Steering Committee will follow during the course of the six months of the Expo. It is our hope that this event will set in motion a process, by the end of which, we will have widely consulted recommendations to provide to decision makers on future priorities for research, development and innovation in the food and agricultural sector. This process should also indicate how the recommendations of the document can best be implemented both inside and outside the EU institutions after the Expo.

The Conference seeks to involve important international actors from politics, the scientific community, industry, and civil society in a dynamic and forthright discussion on the challenges to be faced on global food and nutrition security. The target group will be representatives of the European Institutions, Members of the Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel and the Agriculture, Environment, Development and Research Committees of the European Parliament, the relevant ministries of the EU member states, international organisations, the scientific community (i.e. European life science universities) and other stakeholders.

Programme

10:00 Opening of the Expo Site

10:30 **Welcome by**

- *Vladimír Šucha*, Director General, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- *Franz Fischler*, Chairman, EU Scientific Steering Committee for Expo 2015

10:40 **Opening Statements: Expected outcomes of today's conference**

- *Tibor Navracsics*, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport, responsible for the Joint Research Centre
- *Mairead McGuinness*, Vice-President of the European Parliament, responsible for Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA)
- *Rhoda Peace Tumusiime*, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union (tbc)
- *David J. Lane*, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies in Rome (tbc)

11:10 **Key Note Speech: Global food and nutrition security and the role of research and innovation**

Tom Arnold, Coordinator a.i. of the Movement on Scaling Up Nutrition

11:30 **Presentation of the discussion document, its purpose and next steps**

Tim Benton, Rapporteur and Member of the EU Scientific Steering Committee

11:45 Coffee Break

12:05 **First Panel:**

Research for sustainable intensification, climate change adaptation, reducing losses

Introductory remarks by *Mihail Dumitru*, Deputy Director General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

Panel discussion - Moderator *David Wilkinson*, EU Commissioner General for Expo 2015

- *Allan Buckwell*, Member of the Scientific Steering Committee
- *Francois Houllier*, President Director General of INRA
- *Monty Jones*, Special Advisor to the President of Sierra Leone and President European Marketing Research Centre (EMRC)
- *Pekka Pesonen*, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca
- *Mr. Ariel Brunner*, Head of the EU Policy unit at BirdLife Europe and Central Asia

13:20 Lunch Break

14:15 **Second Panel:**

Research for improving nutrition, food safety & quality, reducing waste

Introductory remarks by *Ladislav Miko*, acting Director General for Health and Food Safety (tbc)

Panel discussion - Moderator *John Bell*, Director Bio-economy, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

- *Esther Kok*, Member of the Scientific Steering Committee
- *Marc van Ameringen*, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- *KE Bingsheng*, President, China Agriculture University (tbc)
- *Anne Roulin*, VP: Nutrition, Health & Wellness & Sustainability, Nestlé
- *Sue Davies*, Chief Policy Adviser, Which? and Chair, EFSA's management board

15:30 **Third Panel:**

Research on Food Markets, trade and equity in a globalised food system

Introductory remarks by *Fernando Frutuoso de Melo*, Director General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission

Panel discussion - Moderator *Eduardo Rojas-Briales*, UN Commissioner General for Expo 2015

- *Jo Swinnen*, Member of the Scientific Steering Committee
- *Maximo Torero*, Director of the Markets, Trade, and Institutions, IFPRI Member of FoodSecure Management Team
- *Pedro Braga Arcuri*, Embrapa Liaison Officer for Multilateral, Regional & National Entities in Europe
- *Lucy Muckoki*, Chief Executive Officer, Pan African Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Consortium (PANAAC)
- *Matthias Mogge*, Executive Director Programmes, Welthungerhilfe and Chairman, Alliance 2015

16:45 Coffee Break

17:15 **Concluding Panel Discussion – How can European research add the most value**

Moderator: *Franz Fischler*, Chairman, EU Scientific Steering Committee for Expo 2015

- *Paul Rübiger*, Chair, Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel, European Parliament
- *Joachim von Braun*, Member of the Scientific Steering Committee
- *Guido van Huylbroeck*, President of the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA)
- *Catherine Woteki*, USDA Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education & Economics (tbc)
- *Michael Karlsson*, President, European Environmental Bureau
- *Mella Frewen*, Director General, FoodDrinkEurope

18:15 **Closing Remarks**

- *Paolo de Castro*, Standing Rapporteur for Expo 2015, Committee of Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament
- *John Bell*, Director Bio-economy, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- *David Wilkinson*, EU Commissioner General for Expo 2015

18:30 End of Conference