

Luca Colombo

Fondazione Diritti Genetici (Genetic Rights Foundation)



The national debate on GMOs and the agro-food model for Italy The background

- Italian GMO-free Coalition
- Presentation of the Agro-food Manifesto











Preliminar discussion with other organisations

ľUnità

Ogm, il dovere di conoscere

The Italian debate The background/2

Prodi responds to the invitation to esplicit the coalitions' position on GMOs, before 2006 national elections:

"The centre-left government has to (...) promote a great public debate enabling people to contribute on the issue"

Six months of negotiations.

The Prodi govt, fails to accomplish the promise.

The decision to go ahead as a civil society initiative









Confartigianato





























The Italian debate <u>The objectives</u>

Main objective: social debate and positioning on GMOs and agro-food model

Target: a few million signatures/votes on a 'ballot paper' indicating people's preference on what they eat

Presentation of a political manifesto focusing on a medium term development: a mobilisation FOR a new agro-food model rather than (simply) AGAINST (GMOs)

Keywords:

- ·New agro-food system
- ·(Shared) Innovation
- Participation

The Italian debate

15 September - 15 November 2007

Great opportunity for:

- ·Citizens alphabetisation on biotech and agro-food system peculiarities
- ·Cultural advancement
- · A season of participated democracy and social cohesion
- ·Reformulation of social and political representativeness

More than a referendum

The Italian debate The organisational model

- national promotional committee, organisation leaders: contents, objectives, public relations;
- national organizational committee, organisation directors: documentation financial management, press office, agenda of national and regional initiatives;
- regional promotional committees, regional chairpersons: coordination and conduct of the public debate at the territorial level, management of relationships with the Presidents of the Regions, (Regional Council declarations);
- economic programming committee, national directors and financial managers: preparation of the budget program for the new model. (This is intended to be a policy program within the framework of all national economic policy);
- "innovation" committee, directors and scientific heads: convergence of scientific research with production- and consumption choices for the country's new agro-food model;
- centralized secretariat, small and basic, providing services to the national and territorial organizational "machinery"

The Italian debate The organisational model/2

- Major national events (with European partners)
- Thematic meetings
- •Local initiatives (the heart of the national debate: people and local authorities involvement)
- ·Meetings will be put on record
- Informatic tools for increased participation
- Rationale of the meetings: member organisations plan their own initiatives on behalf of the coalition

The Italian debate The organisational model/3

- Informative package on biotech and agricultural & food-chain production
- Media work and testimonials
- Focus on academic and scientific arena

The Italian debate <u>The challenges</u>

- Mainstream agriculture focus
- · Organisational burden
- Real participation
- Constant public attention
- · Institutions and political parties role
- · European spread of the Italian experience