

# The GM-Free Regions' Network action on Feedstuff **2007-2008 Campaign**

***Answering to Europe's agriculture needs***

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# Who is the GM Free Regions' Network

- **2003 : creation by Tocana (IT) & Oberösterreich (AU) – 10**
- **2004 : Linz (AU) Conference – 12**
- **2005 Feb : Firenze (IT) Conference – 20**
- **2005 Nov : Rennes (FR) Conference – 28**
- **2006 : Vienna (AU) Conference – 36**
- **2007 : Torino (IT) Conference – 40**
- **Today : 43 regions from all political sides from the North Sea to the Aegean Sea**
  
- **Whole of Greece & Austria, 14 FR, 10 IT, UK, ES, CR.**
- **1 Pdcy, 1 VPdcy, 1 SC**

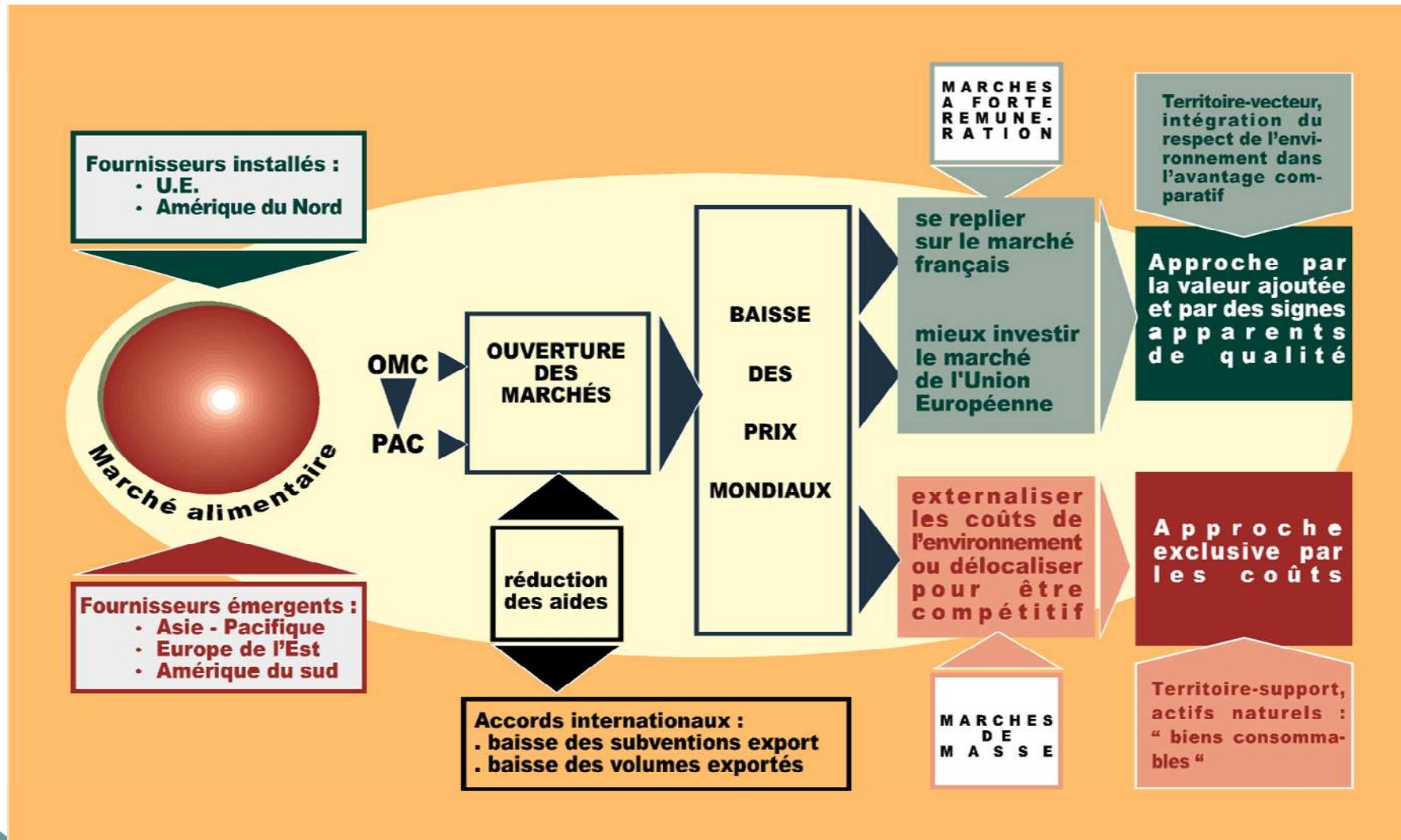
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## Facts & Figures : SOY, a globalized commodity

- Europe is a major soy importer
  - 38 million MT – 38% of international soy trade.
- Americas (North & South) are the major producers.
  - US : 35%, Brazil : 30%, Argentina : 20% = **85%**
  - India & South Africa <10%
  - Europe : Italia < 1%
- A major use in feedstuff.
  - Europe : **34MMT / 38MMT = 90%**
- **Soy is an international commodity** : by-product, globalized market, price fixed in Chicago, industrialised production.
- **Soy is required by all european agricultural systems and is a major issue for the future strategy of european farmers.**

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# Replacing Soy in the globalization issue of European agriculture... from CAP to WTO



## 3 motivations, 1 common denominator : defend an agriculture deeply rooted in our regions

- **Type 1** – PDO-PGI-STG regions – Toscana : maintaining rural networks, conserving a cultural heritage.
  - **Type 2** – Organic producing regions – Oberösterreich : maintaining mountain agriculture, conserving *Heimat*.
  - **Type 3** – Transforming agricultures – Bretagne : keeping in touch with the consumers' needs, finding new business, saving and creating jobs.
- 
- **Face the globalization of food & feed markets,**
  - **Seek a better value and an economic capacity for farmers,**
  - **Authorise strategies.**

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# October 2005 : 11 regions go to Brazil...

- Regions from Fr, It, Gr, Es
- Visits to Paraná, Goiás, Brasilia DF
- Working sessions with IMCOPA, COMIGO
- **5 letters of intentions** with:
  - State of Paraná,
  - Farmers' Unions from Paraná, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goiás,
  - Business Federation of Goiás
- Results:
  - **Opening of new markets in Europe**
  - **1st hand information on soy situation**
  - **Regular visits of co-operative soy businesses**

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# Dec 2007 : a new phase in the regions' action:

## The feedstuff conference – Facts & Figures

- A 12 regions action group (FR, IT, ES, AU).
  - Partnership with the CdR
  - Co-organisation with the Committee of the Regions
- Make supply & demand meet :
  - Demand : 3 500 european businesses & Organisations
  - Offer : 100+ soy suppliers
  - Officials : European Commission, EuroParl, CoR...
- What will be the success yardstick for this initiative ?
  - Understand what is done elsewhere.
  - Encourage common knowledge and experience.
  - Demonstrate there is a consistant market, relying on consumers choice, that has to be respected.

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# Who were the speakers ? : 71 in just 2 days for a global roundup of the situation (partial list...)

## • **Businesses:**

- IGP Poulets de Loué (FR)
- Cooperl (FR)
- BESH (D)
- AOP Comté (FR)
- Gen.No GmbH (AU)
- COOPERLAT (IT)
- IMCOPA (BR)
- FETRAF (BR)
- Stonebridge (US)
- Northland (US)
- Manna (CA)
- Hendrick Seeds (CA)
- SOPA (IN)
- Ruchi Global (IN)
- Sonic Biochem Industries (IN)
- Heyday Food Idd (PRC)
- Solteam (FR)
- Eurofins (FR)
- Cer-Id (USA)
- Trace Consult (CH)
- Tegut (D)
- Coop Italia (IT)
- Budgens-Musgrave (UK)
- Coop (CH)

## • **Agencies & Research:**

- INRA (FR),
- AREPO (EU)
- SAPID (EU)
- ARSIA (IT)
- ASSAM (IT)
- ORG & NON GMO REPORT (US)

## • **NGOs:**

- FOE (EU)
- Greenpeace (EU)
- Italia & Europa senza GM (IT)
- GENET (EU)
- EHNE (ES)
- COPA-COGECA (EU)

## • **Public institutions:**

- Committee of the Regions
- European Parliament
- European Commission
- GM Free Regions' Network

- **WE HAD TO STOP SPEAKERS' RECRUITMENT ON SEPT 15TH !**

# What was the result ?

- **117 businesses, 638 sites, 90 152 employees, 681 683 farms...**
  - **51 regions (network = 43)**
  - **26 MEP (3 VP ComAgri/4)**
  - **26 nationalities (9 non EU)**
  
  - **At least 4 contracts « on site » + numerous prospects**
  - **A clearer vision on the global situation**
  - **A better understanding of mutual requirements**
  - **A shared vision on current situation and outlooks on the future**
  - **A strong basis for future actions & understanding**
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# What was the outcome ?

## **Final Political declaration :**

- **The E.U must be responsible and before deciding on GMO must evaluate globally the non-GM market in Europe.**
- **Consumer must be informed of what he buys : call for transparency,**
- **The EU farmers must be authorised to grow non-GM plants for feed (and amend the Uruguay Round agreements)**

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## Future outcomes...

- Combined action with the European Parliament & the Committee of the Regions
- Getting the figures right by first hand information
- Global network on Europe – North & South America – Asia
- June 5 & 6 2008 « 6 month after » : 2nd Global non-GM + Sustainable soy conference in Brussels

***First step completed***

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