

**Academic Forum on the Ethical, Social and Legal Aspects of Agrofood
Biotechnologies
Towards a New Regulatory Framework for the GM Crops in the European Union**

University of the Basque Country - Bilbao (Spain),
1-2 December 2015

Conference Director: Prof. Dr. Leire Escajedo.
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Law and Ethics in the Biosciences Teaching Unit

Presentation

Aware of the significant potential the nascent biotechnologies had, the actual EU was one of the first regions of the world to develop a regulatory framework for them. Back in the 1980s, the objective of Community member countries was to strengthen the standards of consensus and collaboration, and of environmental and health safety, in addition to promote an industrial sector of enormous potential. In spite of much effort, towards the end of the 1990s it was a widely accepted fact that a number of political and economic factors were blocking the development of biotechnology in Europe. From that crisis emerged which in some aspects probably is today's most comprehensive and rigorous body of regulations for biotechnology in the world.

However, the very high technical level of those regulations did not avoid a new crisis which the EU institutions aim to solve with a new regulation. Thus, since March 2015, the way towards the third regulatory framework for Biotechnology in the EU is open. Will this third regulatory framework finally offer sufficient guarantees to allow a healthy and sustainable development of biotechnology in the EU? What do we need so that "the third time will be a charm?"

This Conference opens an academic and cross-disciplinary forum, with European and non European experts, to discuss the past and the present, as well as the opening perspectives for the Genetically Modified Crops in the EU.

Call for abstracts

Academic researchers that have worked on the topic are kindly invited to submit their proposals for oral and poster presentations to our conference office: info.biolaw@ehu.es . Abstracts should include:

Title and Author(s) name and affiliation (s)

Keywords

Abstract (300-500 words). The abstract should describe the purpose, methodology and findings of the research conducted.

Abstract submission deadline 15 October 2015

Decision by the Scientific Committee: 20 October 2015

Extended abstract (max. 6 pages including tittle, keywords, text and bibliography) submission deadline: 20 November 2015. Extended abstract and registration are needed in order to include the presentation in the final program. Papers selected by the Scientific Committee are to be published in a monograph work.

Conference: 1-2 December 2015

Registration fee: Early registration (15th November 2015) 50 EUR / After 16th November: 100 EUR. Please, before making the payment, make it sure that they are still places available. They will be served in a first come first serve basis.