

GROWING VOICES:
“Healthy food – the untold story of GM crops”

Wednesday, 22 January 2014, 08:45 to 13:00

Renaissance Hotel, rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels



SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES



Julie Girling

Member of the European Parliament, European Conservatives and Reformists Group

Mrs. Girling is a British Conservative politician, currently serving as a Member of the European Parliament for the South West of England and Gibraltar.

Julie was born in London. She was educated at Twickenham County Grammar School followed by Liverpool University where she graduated in 1979 with a degree in History and Politics. Julie joined Ford Motor Company as a graduate trainee and worked on the shop floor in a supervisory role. She later moved into retail management, spending seven years with Argos, three years with Dixons/Currys and then joined Boots before heading up Buying and Marketing at Halfords. She spent several years living and working in Indonesia with her husband.

Julie's political life started at university as a member of the Federation of Conservative Students. Politics then took a back seat to work and family life for many years during which time her involvement was restricted to helping out at election time. In 1999 she was elected as a Councillor on Cotswold District Council and became Leader of the Council (the first Conservative!) in 2003. In 2005 Julie was elected to Gloucestershire County Council and became the Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment in 2006. Selected to stand as a Conservative candidate in the 2004 European elections, Julie was seventh on the list so was too far down to be elected. She persevered and was delighted to gain the number two position second time around.

Julie was elected as MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar in June 2009, joining Giles Chichester MEP and Ashley Fox MEP in representing the area. She has a keen interest in all environmental matters as well as agriculture and was very pleased to become a member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee within the European Parliament. She is also a substitute member on the Fisheries Committee and the Chief Whip of the Conservative Delegation.

Julie is a strong supporter of rural communities and country pursuits and likes to spend spare time horse riding and walking her dogs. Julie is working on a number of campaigns including 'Save the Bee', dedicated to protecting Bees in the South West. Julie lives in the Cotswolds with her husband Warren and 17 year old son Angus who goes to school in Cheltenham.



Paola Testori

**Director General, DG Health and Consumer Policy
European Commission**

Paola Testori Coggi is Director General of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission since April 2010.

She is a biologist from the University of Milan, Italy, with a Master degree in Ecotoxicology. In 2008 she received a Doctor Honoris Causa in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cluj, Romania.

Paola Testori Coggi joined the European Commission in 1983 in the Directorate-General for Environment where she worked until 1989 in the field of the control of dangerous chemicals and industrial risks. Afterwards, she served as Member responsible for the research programmes on life sciences, environment and energy in the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Filippo Maria Pandolfi. She also worked in the EU Joint Research Centre where she was responsible for administrative coordination.

Paola Testori Coggi served as Deputy Director General from August 2007 with responsibility for Directorates D (Animal Health and Welfare), E (Safety of the Food Chain), F (Food and Veterinary Office) and scientific matters. Prior to this (from 2000), she served as Director for the Safety of the food chain. In this capacity, she was responsible for the White Paper on food safety and the legislative action programme as well as the management of emergencies.

She was previously Advisor for consumer health in the Cabinet of Commissioner Emma Bonino and she worked on the definition of the new EU policy on consumer health following the BSE crisis.



Francisco Barro Losada

**Research Scientist, Institute of Sustainable Agriculture
Cordoba**

TBA



Nacho Serrano

The Spanish Coeliac Association

TBA



Macy Merriman

Senior Manager, Biotech and Government Affairs, Dupont Pioneer

Macy Merriman has been Biotech and Government Affairs Manager at DuPont Pioneer since 2001. He joined Dupont Pioneer in 1994 and served as Biotech Affairs Manager for Europe. He was responsible for relations with the EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament and Council and ensured positive business environment for the seed and agriculture biotechnology business of Pioneer, a DuPont company.

He graduated from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in 1990.



Pr. Ingo Potrykus

Professor Emeritus, Institute of Plant Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Chairman of the Golden Rice Humanitarian Board

Prof. Potrykus conducted studies in Zoology, Botany, Genetics, Biochemistry, Philosophy, Physical Education at Universities, in Cologne and Erlangen. In 1968, he received PhD in Plant Genetics at the Max-Planck-Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany.

From 1974 on his research focussed on plant-science-based contributions to food security in developing countries. Development and application of genetic engineering technology for and to "food security" crops such as rice (*Oryza sativa*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), and cassava (*Manihot esculenta*). Focusing on problems difficult to solve with traditional techniques and in the areas of disease and pest resistance, improved food quality, improved yield, improved exploitation of natural resources, and improved biosafety. This work was performed by an international team of (in average) 60 coworkers financed from competitive grants and core funding. The Golden Rice project, initiated in 1991 with a PhD project was possible only because of that core funding situation. Details of the science can be found in ca 340 publications in refereed journals and around 30 international patents.

Teaching activities included lectures and courses in basic and advanced plant biology and plant biotechnology in the faculties of Biology, Agronomy, Pharmacy, Forestry, Environmental Sciences as well as International Training Courses, eg EMBO.

Ingo Potrykus is the engine behind the Golden Rice Project and the Humanitarian Board. Together with Peter Beyer he was one of the inventors of the Golden Rice technology. Since his retirement as a professor in 1999, and far from settling down and quietly enjoying his pension, he has devoted enormous and selfless efforts to bring biofortified Golden Rice to those who need it.



Dr. Patrick Moore

Co-founder and former member of Greenpeace, Allow Golden Rice Now

Dr. Patrick Moore, Honours B.Sc. in Forest Biology, University of British Columbia and Ph.D. in Ecology, Institute of Resource Ecology, University of British Columbia (1972), has been a leader in the international environmental field for over 30 years. He is a founding member of Greenpeace and served for nine years as President of Greenpeace Canada and seven years as a Director of Greenpeace International. As the leader of many campaigns Dr. Moore was a driving force shaping policy and direction while Greenpeace became the world's largest environmental activist organization.

In recent years, Dr. Moore has been focused on the promotion of sustainability and consensus building among competing concerns. He was a member of British Columbia government-appointed Round Table on the Environment and Economy from 1990 - 1994. In 1990, Dr. Moore founded and chaired the BC Carbon Project, a group that worked to develop a common understanding of climate change

Dr. Moore served for four years as Vice President, Environment for Waterfurnace International, the largest manufacturer of geothermal heat pumps for residential heating and cooling with renewable earth energy.

As Chair of the Sustainable Forestry Committee of the Forest Alliance of BC, he leads the process of developing the "Principles of Sustainable Forestry" which have been adopted by a majority of the industry.

In 1991 Dr. Moore founded Greenspirit, a consultancy focusing on environmental policy and communications in natural resources, biodiversity, energy and climate change. In 2000, Dr. Moore published Green Spirit – Trees are the Answer, a photo-book that provides a new insight into how forests work and how they can play a powerful role in solving many of our current environmental problems.



Pr. Claude M. Fauquet

Director, Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st Century

Claude M. Fauquet is director of the International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology (ILTAB) and member and principal investigator at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, MO, since 1999. He is adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia and at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University Louis Pasteur in Strasburg in 1974.

Dr. Fauquet took a position at ORSTOM (now IRD [Institut de Recherche pour le Développement]), a French public research institute dedicated to helping developing countries, and served as plant virologist in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he stayed 14 years. While in Africa, Fauquet worked with 45 different viral diseases affecting food crops, vegetables, and industrial crops. In 1983, Fauquet obtained one of the first research grants awarded by the European Community, and he developed an interdisciplinary project on the epidemiology of cassava mosaic disease (CMD). These efforts resulted in a comprehensive epidemiological study of this very important virus disease.

At the end of this project, in 1987, Fauquet organized a pan-African meeting on CMD in the Ivory Coast, where it was proposed to develop cassava biotechnology to better control this disease. In 1988, Fauquet undertook a 2-year sabbatical at Washington University with R. N. Beachy. Because of his African experience, he obtained grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and IRD to work on rice and cassava biotechnology. In 1991, Fauquet cofounded ILTAB at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) with Beachy.

Dr. Fauquet was the first to find that geminiviruses encode for at least two gene silencing protein suppressors. Their complementary and combinatorial action is responsible for the synergistic symptoms observed in cassava in Uganda in the 1990s that led to a pandemic disease now spreading westward across Africa. Fauquet is also cofounder and cochair of the Global Cassava Partnership, a network whose goal is to enhance scientific and financial investment in cassava. Notably, he obtained from the U.S. Department of Energy a grant for sequencing the cassava genome.

He was secretary of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) for 18 years and continues his involvement in the classification of viruses through the creation of the International Virus Database Network. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences and, in 2007, was knighted “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques” by the French Minister of Higher Education and Research.



Pr. Johnathan Napier

**Lead scientist on the oilseeds enriched in omega-3 project,
Rothamsted Research**

Prof. Napier obtained his BSc from the University of Nottingham, followed by a PhD in plant biochemistry from King's College, London. He carried out post-doctoral research in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, then taking up a position at Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol.

His research on the biosynthesis of polyunsaturated fatty acids has delivered some of the key advances in the last 15 years, including the functional characterization of the omega-3 long chain PUFA biosynthetic pathway and its heterologous reconstitution in transgenic plants.

His research group relocated to Rothamsted Research in 2003 where he is currently Institute Assistant Director and Programme Leader. Johnathan is also an Affiliated Lecturer at the University of Cambridge and Visiting Professor at the University of Nottingham.



The Rt Hon Owen Paterson

**Member of Parliament, Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs, UK**

Owen Paterson was appointed Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2012. He is the Conservative MP for North Shropshire.

Owen was educated at Radley College, Abingdon and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge where he studied history.

Owen held several posts while in opposition, including Shadow Minister for Transport from 2005 to 2007 and Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from 2007 to 2010. He was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from May 2010 to September 2012.

He joined the British Leather Company in 1979, becoming Sales Director in 1983 and Managing Director in 1993.

Owen is married with 3 children.



Mella Frewen

Director General, FoodDrinkEurope

Mella Frewen has been Director General of FoodDrinkEurope (former CIAA), representing Europe's largest manufacturing sector, since July 2007.

Mrs Frewen's previous positions include Director for Government Affairs, Europe, Middle East & Africa, for Monsanto, dealing with issues including agricultural biotechnology, conventional agriculture and agri-chemistry.

Prior to that she was Director, International Relations for Cerestar, then Europe's biggest starch producer. From this role and her earlier ones in the Ferruzzi and Eridania Begin-Say Groups, stationed in Brussels, she has a wide experience of relations with the different Institutions of the European Union and trade associations within the food chain, as well as with the agricultural and chemical sectors.

Mrs Frewen has been the Food Industry Member of the EU Commission's Advisory Committee on Arable Crops, of the Commission's Standing Committee on Renewable Energy and of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Non-Food and Textile crops. She is currently member of the EU Commission's High Level Steering Committee for the European Innovation Partnership, and member of several food-industry related Boards.

Mrs. Frewen has worked in the Agri-food sector in Europe for 25 years. She has a Master of Science degree from the National University of Ireland, and completed a post-graduate course at the University of Brussels (ULB). She also holds an INSEAD certificate on International Operations Management.



Sebastian Hess

Associate Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Sebastian joined the department for the first time in late 2008, and for the second time in March 2010 after having been on leave as an Acting Professor in Germany. He received a PhD from the University of Göttingen, Germany, and studied Agricultural Economics in Göttingen and at the University of California in Davis.

His research interests include Partial- and General Equilibrium Models, Meta-Analysis, Farm Labor Migration. He is leading courses on Quantitative Methods, Intermediate Microeconomics, International Trade, Agricultural Policy, and Global Issues.

Outside Academia, Sebastian has worked as a policy consultant. Referee for Energy Policy, European Review of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Economics, German Journal of Agricultural Economics- Agrarwirtschaft, African Journal of Agricultural Research, EAAE International Congress 2011 in Zürich. 2005-2007 Member of the Editorial Board CIGR- Ejournal.



Romão Braz

Vice-President, Finançor SGPS S.A. and FEFAC Council member

TBA



Cathy Smith

Media expert, moderator of the event

Cathy Smith is a former British journalist. She has spent a good part of her professional life living and working in Brussels.

She has been a correspondent covering European affairs for the BBC and also for GMTV- a breakfast TV station in the UK.

When not out on the road as a reporter, Cathy was a presenter of Channel Four News in London and before that spent five years in her native city of Manchester fronting the BBC regional news programme North West Tonight.

Cathy has been based in both Hong Kong and New Zealand as a reporter and has travelled extensively throughout almost all the 27 EU countries in the course of her work.

When not working, Cathy is kept busy looking after her two children, her two cats and learning to play the piano.