

Western Europe's 'Network of Networks' for the CSM's Coordination Committee, January 21, 2011

Dear friends,

Early last December we wrote to inform you about the reform of the Committee on World Food Security and the related efforts underway in different regions of the world to build up networks of civil society organizations concerned with food issues. We are attaching our earlier letter here to remind you about the opportunities that this development offers (versions FR, SP, and EN).

Today we would like to let you know that **Stineke Oenema**, chair of the CONCORD European Food Security Working Group (EFSG), has been selected to represent Western European civil society organizations in the Coordination Committee of the mechanism that facilitates civil society participation in the policy discussions of the reformed Committee on World Food Security. A description of the selection process that has been adopted, as well as the terms of reference of the Coordination Committee, are described in the attached document (**CSM Coord Cttee TOR**). This document is a bit long and detailed, but we wanted to make sure that all of the information is available to everyone.

As you will see, Stineke's role is not one of representing any particular organization(s) but rather of facilitating access to information and participation in policy dialogue on the part of all interested Western European CSOs. She will be assisted by the members and the secretariat of the Concord EFSG, and by networks of other key civil society sectors. These include farmers (the European Coordination Via Campesina), consumer/producer alliances (Urgenci), women (WIDE), youth (MIJARC), environmental organizations (FoEE), agricultural and food workers, fisherfolk, and others.

In order to be included in the mailing list of the network of Western European civil society organizations and community-based initiatives relating to the Committee on World Food Security, you **MUST REPLY TO THIS LETTER** and confirm your interest. This mailing list will henceforth be the major source of information about food security-related issues and meetings at FAO and about our lobbying efforts on these issues directed to the European authorities. This is the last mail we will be sending to the previous **eur-cso-fao-** list.

Over the next few weeks we will be thinking about how best to carry out

the work of civil society facilitation and advocacy in Western Europe related to the issues under discussion in the Committee on World Food Security. We hope to hold an informal meeting in Brussels sometime in February to share our ideas.

Any suggestions you would like to send us would be most welcome. In the meantime, consultations are already underway globally on two important CFS issues:

- the Voluntary Guidelines on the governance of land and natural resource tenure and the Responsible Agricultural Investment principles
- the objectives, scope and process of the Global Strategic Framework, which the CFS will be developing in 2011-2012.

Those of you who are interested in participating in these consultations can find out how to do so by visiting the two civil society web sites related to the CFS: <http://cso4cfs.org> and <http://foodnutgov.ning.com>.

We expect to open up a Western Europe space on <http://cso4cfs.org> sometime over the coming weeks.

Stineke Oenema
European Food
Security Group

Annelies Schorpion
European Coordination
Via Campesina

Aksel Naersted
The Development Fund
Norway