



WORLD FORUM ON ACCESS TO LAND

WFAL 2016

Valencia, Spain
March 31st- April 2nd

Land grabbing and land concentration in Europe (Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee, 16.11.2015)

Communiqué

On the 16 of November 2015, a day of reflection took place at the European Economic and Social Committee on land grabbing and land concentration in Europe. This event was part of the preparation phase of the World Forum on Access to Land and natural resources (WFAL), which will take place in Valencia (Spain) between 31 March and 2 April 2016.

This day brought together a hundred participants from twenty European countries, which represented about fifty civil society organizations, producer organizations, research agencies and regional, national and European institutions (FAO, European Commission, European Parliament, EESC, etc.). Mr. Brendan Burns, president of the EESC-NAT section (Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment), opened the day, while Mrs. Dilyana Slavova, president of the External Relations Section at the EESC, closed this day of discussion.

Participants acknowledged the necessity of taking into account the wide variety of on-going processes in different European regions, such as, the continuation of agrarian dualism in a number of former USSR countries, the lasting land concentration in a number of southern European regions and the continuation of agricultural reorganization in Western Europe, etc.

They find that increasing disparities in accessing land and natural resources faced by farmers with the lowest incomes, *a fortiori* young farmers, wishing to set up a farm, and landless peasants, are the result of the promotion of a productive model pushing for the constitution of large and very large agricultural holdings which are specialized, well-equipped, who use huge amount of agricultural inputs and fossil energy, and who rely on agricultural laborers.

The damaging effects of this agricultural model led to the adoption by the Committee on World Food Security of the Voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land and other natural resources in 2012. Nonetheless, the encouraged agricultural model is the opposite of small-scale family farming, which the efficiency has been recognized during the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF2014).

In light of this observation, participants to this day of discussion on land grabbing and land concentration in Europe call:

- To highlight the impacts of the Common agricultural policy (CAP), including in its latest version, on land concentration and to reflect on the tools that should be implemented to limit the scope of these impacts,
- On the European Commission to include in its political agenda the issue of the access to land in the European Union,
- On European member states and the European Union to take into account the issues of land governance and to implement appropriate regulatory tools,
- For expanding civic and institutional alliances on these land access issues, beyond the too narrow circle of food producers organizations and institutions in charge of agrarian and land issues,
- For pursuing efforts in the development of analysis and practical proposals for the purpose of the World Forum on Access to Land and natural resources WFAL-2016 (Valencia, Spain, 31 March – 2 April 2016).

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT WFAL
secretariat@landaccessforum.org



Association pour l'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de la Terre, de l'Eau et des Ressources naturelles

Mathieu Perdriault
Executive secretary
Bureaux : 45 bis avenue de la Belle Gabrielle, 94736 Nogent sur Marne Cedex, France
Tel : +33 143 947 259

Web: <http://www.agter.asso.fr> ; <http://agter.org>



Centro de Estudios Rurales y de Agricultura Internacional

Bureaux : Escuela de Capataces Agrícolas. Camí del Port s/n. 46470 Catarroja, Valencia/España
Tel: +34 674 002 700

Web: <http://cerai.org>