



European Economic and Social Committee



**GENEVA  
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international  
humanitaire et de droits humains  
Academy of International  
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

## **Public Conference: *Peasants' Rights in Europe***

*The implementation of the UN Declaration for the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) in Europe and its contribution to the SDGs and the UN Decade of Family Farming*

**30 September 2019**

**13:30-17**

**European Economic and Social Committee**

[VMA building, Rue Van Maerlant 2 – room VMA3](#)

**Brussels**

In December 2018, the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP) was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York by a large majority of countries.

It is time to see how this international human rights instrument can support the livelihood of rural populations in Europe, and contribute to the full realisation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and to a successful Decade of Family Farming.

It is fundamental to put smallholder farmers at the center of more sustainable food systems and their governance, in order to overcome growing levels of hunger and inequalities in today's world. Smallholder farmers are also essential in the preservation of natural resources and in the development of agroecological farming methods.

This event aims to bring together representatives of United Nations agencies, European Union institutions, academics, experts and most importantly peasants from Europe in an exchange of views in order to:

- *Share information about the recent UN adopted resolution on the Rights of Peasants and the UN Decade on Family Farming (UNDFP);*
- *Promote the implementation of the UNDROP in Europe;*
- *Highlight the relationship between the UNDROP and the UNDFP on issues such as food and agriculture policies, seeds and biodiversity.*

*Duration of the conference: 3h*

**13:00-13:30 Registration and lunch**

**13:30-13:45 - Welcoming**

*Geneviève Savigny, member of the Diversity Europe Group (Group III) of the European Economical Social Committee (EESC)*

*Maurizio Reale, President of the NAT section of the European Economical Social Committee ( EESC ) (tbc)*

*Representative of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)*

**13h45 – 14h45 Panel 1: the UNDROP and the decade of family farming**

Moderation by Thierry Kesteloot (Oxfam Solidarité)

Presentations (30 min.):

- Presentation of the UNDROP and its link with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development by Birgit Van Hout, Regional Representative for Europe of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)
- The Decade for Family Farming: a UN framework to promote the implementation of the UNDROP in Europe by a representative of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO-REU)
- The importance of the UNDROP for European farmers by Ramona Duminicioiu, member of the coordinating committee of the European Coordination of Via Campesina (ECVC)

Roundtable of reactions - Responses from EU institutions (20 min):

- Representative of EC/DG AGRI responsible for the CAP reform (tbc)
- Representative from EU MS Government (tbc)
- Dacian Cioloş, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

Questions from the floor to the panelists and responses (10 min.)

**14:45 – 15:05 Coffee Break**

**15:05-16:15 Session 2 – Focus on the Peasants' Right to Seeds**

Moderation by FIAN International (tbc)

Presentations (30 min.):

- The importance of the right to seeds in international law, by José Esquinas, former Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and former Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- The primacy of peasant right to seeds over intellectual property rights, by Christophe Golay, Senior Research Fellow, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
- Peasants' seeds systems and the EU law: Which legal changes are needed in the EU in order to comply with the UNDROP? By Guy Kastler, representative of the seed WG of the European Coordination of Via Campesina (ECVC)

Roundtable of reactions - Responses from EU institutions (25 min):

- Representative of DG SANTE responsible for the seed marketing legislations (tbc)
- Representative of DG SANTE responsible for the GMOs legislations (tbc)
- Mr. Alfonso Calles Sanchez, - Legal and Policy Officer - Unit F3, Intellectual Property and Fight Against Counterfeiting, EC-DG GROW
- Mery Ciacci, International Relations Officer - Access and Benefit Sharing under the Nagoya Protocol, - Unit F, Global Sustainable Development, EC-DG ENV.

Questions from the floor to the panelists and responses (20 min.)

**16:15-16:30 Closing Remarks – how to implement peasants’ rights in Europe**

Olivier De Schutter – co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) (tbc)

Representative of Nyeleni Europe (the European Food Sovereignty Movement)

---

*Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish*

[Registration is required. Click here to register.](#) *Registration is closing on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.*

*For any other information or if you have any problem in registering please write to [peasantsrights-sept2019@eurovia.org](mailto:peasantsrights-sept2019@eurovia.org)*

---

[Click here to read the UN Declaration for the Rights of Peasants \(UNDROP\) in the different UN languages](#)

More info on Peasants’ Rights in Europe available online at <https://www.eurovia.org/main-issue/farmers-rights/>

Other Supporting Organizations: *FIAN*,