



*Have the pleasure to invite you
to an International Conference and a Public Roundtable
organized by Heinrich Böll Foundation and Glopolis-Prague Global Policy
Institute*

The global food crisis, one year on. How to achieve food security for all?

Date: March 4th, 2009

Venue: Goethe Institute, Masarykovo Nabrezi 32, Prague 1

R.S.V.P :

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konference@glopolis.org, +420 272 66 11 32

English/French/Czech interpretation available



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Introduction

963 million people suffer from chronic hunger

The world is going through a triple crisis; the food crisis, the financial crisis and the climate crisis. These crises affect people over the planet in different ways but the poorest people are hardest hit and least able to manage the impacts. In December 2008, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) revised its official count of the number of people living with chronic hunger raising it to 963 million up from 923 million in 2007 and 854 million before that. The FAO warns that another round of dramatic food prices may happen in 2009, which would throw even more people in the spiral of chronic hunger. The financial crisis and economic recession may negatively affect levels of investment for increasing agricultural production in developing countries. Moreover, the world cereal stocks remain very low, to only 40 days of supply. Above all, global warming will keep damaging the natural resource base on which agriculture depends.

The crisis as an opportunity for changing approach,...

Although the food price crisis appeared in the media headlines in 2008 with food riots erupting in over 30 countries to protest at the unaffordability of food, the crisis is long-term and has structural causes. As some international organizations have stressed in framing the answer to the crisis (and civil society organizations and farmer's movements before them), addressing the structural causes of the crisis requires to invest in small-scale agriculture for too long neglected, to implement strategies to adapt to climate change and to revise the global trade regime in order to ensure that global agricultural trade rules promote, rather than undermine, the right to adequate food, especially in net food importing countries which count for 105 out of 148 developing countries. The statement of former USA President Clinton on the World Food day illustrates a shift: "We should go back to a policy of maximum food self-sufficiency. It is crazy for us to think we can develop countries around the world without increasing their ability to feed themselves."

...for taking action...

The crisis has pushed governments from developing countries and international donors, comprising the EU, to reverse the trend of low support for agricultural development. But for achieving food security, action is also required in improving the way markets work. While high prices are endangering poor consumers, low prices are harmful for farmers representing around 60% of the workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa. Agricultural policies are therefore closely linked with trade policies because prices levels on local markets depend very much on tariffs countries apply externally. Besides, other tools can also contribute in stabilizing prices such as food stocks. The G8 and the European Parliament have raised the question of extending their use.

...and for debating in Czech Republic how to achieve food security for all

The morning conference will question the main causes of the food crisis, its effects on people and the answers of public authorities. It will also discuss the main challenges agriculture will face in the 21st century and debate a proposal, designed by the EcoFair Trade Project of Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Misereor, aiming at funding fairer and more sustainable Food and Agricultural systems worldwide. In the afternoon, a roundtable of experts will discuss in more details which trade and market tools are necessary for accompanying the re-launch of agricultural production in developing countries.



Conference Programme (preliminary)

8.45 *Registration*

9.15 *Opening remarks*

- **Eva van de Rakt**, Heinrich Böll Foundation (Prague)
- **Aurèle Destrée**, Glopolis- Prague Global Policy Institute

9.25-10.00 *Keynote Speech*

- **Olivier De Schutter**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

10.00-11.20 *Part I. The food crisis: causes, impacts and prospects?*

What caused the food prices' rise? Market development of agricultural commodities and its influence on the food prices worldwide.

- **Miluše Abrahamová**, Head of agricultural commodities market department , UZEI- Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information, Czech Republic

Which effects and answers to high prices in poor countries? The case of Senegal.

- **Alex Danau**, Food Strategies Association, Belgium

Is a return to low food prices desirable? Impacts of three decades of low prices on small-scale farmers in poor countries.

- **Daniel de la Torre Ugarte**, Associate Director and Professor of the Agriculture Policy Analysis Center, University of Tennessee, USA

Questions and answers

11.20-11.40 *Coffee Break*



11: 40-13.30 *Part II. Food security for all: rethinking food and agriculture systems worldwide.*

Presentation of the report

„Slow Trade Sound Farming. A Multilateral Framework for Sustainable Markets in Agriculture”

- **Hannes Lorenzen**, Adviser of The GREENS /EFA, European Parliament

Panel Discussion: The crisis as an opportunity for change?

Views from farmers

- **Mamadou Cissokho**, Honorary President of ROPPA (Network of Farmers’ and Agricultural Producers’ Organisations of West Africa), Senegal
- **Michal Pospíšil**, Secretary for foreign affairs of the Association of private farming of the Czech Republic

Views from policy makers

- **Flavio Coturni**, Head of the Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission (tbc)

Moderator:

- **Michal Broža**, Head of United Nations Information Center, Czech Republic

13:30-13.40 *Conclusions*

- **Petr Lebeda**, Glopolis-Prague Global Policy Institute
- **Ute Straub**, Heinrich Böll Foundation (Berlin)

13.40 *Buffet Lunch*



Public Roundtable programme (preliminary)

Taking action:
How to make markets and trade work for global food security?
May the right to food be realized in free markets?

The recent financial and food price crisis are forcing policy-makers to question conventional thinking on how markets work, why they can fail and what role the governments should play when they do. Currently, international efforts aim at re-launching local agricultural production in poor countries. Yet, besides expanded agricultural production, trade and market policies have an important role to play in securing that food prices are affordable for consumers and remunerative for producers. The roundtable will therefore question which trade and market policies should accompany the expansion of local food production in developing countries. What are the policy options for avoiding food prices from falling too low or raising too high? Are the multinational trade rules allowing such options?

14:20 *Registration (for new participants only)*

14:40-14:50 *Introduction*

14:50-15:10 *Presentation from Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, APAC- Agriculture Policy Analysis Center, University of Tennessee, USA*

15:10- 16:40 *Discussion*

- **Mamadou Cissokho**, Honorary President of ROPPA (Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa), Senegal
- **Martin Tlapa**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (tbc)
- **Jiří Urban**, Deputy Minister, Czech Ministry of Agriculture (tbc)
- **Ivo Hlaváč**, 1st Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
- **Flavio Coturni**, Head of the Agricultural Trade Policy Analysis, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission (tbc)
- **Michal Pospíšil**, Secretary for foreign affairs of the Association of private farming of the Czech Republic
- **Alex Danau**, Food Strategies Association, Belgium
- **Miroslav Zámečník**, Economist, Czech Republic

Moderator:

- **Klára Bratová**, Journalist, Czech Republic

16.40 *Conclusion*

16.50 *Glass of wine*

