



'Towards European Coordination of Plant Genomics'

12 – 13 December 2002 . Amsterdam . The Netherlands

Workshop Proceedings

Austria



Belgium



Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland



Italy



Netherlands



Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Spain



Sweden



United Kingdom





Information

Workshop 'Towards European Coordination of Plant Genomics'

Dates	12 and 13 December 2002
Venue	Hilton Amsterdam Airport Hotel Schiphol Boulevard 701, 1118 BN Schiphol Centre, the Netherlands Provisional hotel reservations have been made for you. Please let us know by e-mail if you would like us to make this a final booking for you. [Standard room Euro 200 / Business room Euro 250].
Format	Two-day meeting Commencing at 13.00 hrs on Thursday 12th December and finishing on Friday 13th December at ± 15.00 hrs
Representation	From each Member State a 'duo' is invited, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a policy-making representative, i.e. someone involved in a national programme, or a government official;- a representative from the scientific community in the field of Plant Genomics, i.e. someone who is involved in practical research or a scientific manager of a national programme, or at least engaged in the area of overlap between practical application and policy, preferably with relevant experience of the strategic and international aspects of this issue.
EU contribution to travel costs	Financial support will be provided by the Commission Services in the form of a contribution to the travel costs for one expert per country and the travel costs of the invited speakers.
Organising countries	The Netherlands (host) Belgium

Information

Workshop 'Towards European Coordination of Plant Genomics'

Background

Europe has a long standing tradition of excellence in research and innovation, and European teams continue to lead progress in many fields of science and technology. However our centres of excellence are scattered across the continent and all too often their efforts fail to add up in the absence of adequate networking and coordination. EU Commissioner Busquin emphasised this need for more coordination, when he launched the idea of setting up a European Research Area back in 2000 - *Towards a European Research Area*. The goal of this concept, supported by the European Council of Lisbon in 2000, is to encourage the European coordination of national research policies and activities in terms of objectives, expertise and resources.

The European Commission has since formalised this intention by including resources to support such coordination in its proposal for the 6th Framework Programme for Research. The ERA-NET Scheme will be the principal means to support the coordination and cooperation of research activities at national and regional levels.

In 2002, the EU Member States, represented by Research Ministers at an informal meeting in Gerona, agreed to pursue a range of initiatives focussed on the progressive mutual opening of national RTD programmes. The EU Committee for Science and Technology, CREST, was assigned to implement this agreement, in close consultation with the national organisations. CREST decided to promote pilot projects in five different areas of study: plant genomics, marine science, complexity and complex systems, chemistry and astrophysics.

The Netherlands and Belgium have agreed to take the lead in Plant Genomics, and to invite all the relevant European stakeholders in the field of Plant Genomics for a kick-off workshop.

Objective of the kick-off workshop

Overall Aim: to identify opportunities for opening up national Plant Genomics RTD programmes.

The objective of the kick-off meeting is to exchange up-to-date information on research strategies, policy objectives and priorities, implementation procedures, evaluation and selection mechanisms, programmes and projects follow-up. On the basis of all this, it should be considered whether the national programmes involved should be opened up and how.

Preparation

As we explained in the initial invitation, all participants are invited to share their views, ideas and critical comments so that we can really learn from each other. We are convinced that, in order to create a strong and solid basis on which we can successfully start working together, it is necessary to achieve equivalent levels of communication of and insight into the themes of ERA, whilst aligning ambitions and expectations, so that the points of departure are clear and unambiguous. By doing so we will create a kind of blueprint of the basic principles. Only then can we make a start with a continuing successful cooperation.

Information

Workshop 'Towards European Coordination of Plant Genomics'

For this reason we have opted to devote extensive attention during the kick-off workshop to points of departure and preconditions for possible cooperation in the field of scientific research in Europe. We are therefore not only interested in the facts and figures of projects, ideas and initiatives related to Plant Genomics in your country. We also want to know what you think about the possibilities and impossibilities of arriving at a form of coordination and cooperation at European level.

The first day of the workshop is completely devoted to introduction and becoming acquainted. We request that one of the representatives of your country gives a brief presentation (15 minutes maximum) on the developments in Plant Genomics in your country. In this presentation we would like you to focus on the following aspects.

1. Your own experiences with co-operation.
2. What bottlenecks might be encountered in making programmes accessible?
3. What is the added value of accessibility, and establishing a European research coordination?

On the second day we will discuss in greater detail your personal opinion and views on possible forms of cooperation at a European level. Although we are eager to discuss the opening of research programmes and cooperation in research in general, and not concentrate specifically on ERA-NET yet, we have nevertheless decided to use the ERA-NET Scheme as the point of departure. The ERA-NET scheme is based on a bottom-up approach and offers a number of concrete possibilities for cooperation and partnership.

We have included a questionnaire with a section on **FACTS & FIGURES** and a section on **PERSONAL OPINION & IDEAS**. Please answer the questions as fully as possible and return the questionnaire to us. These will then be used as input for the workshop. In this we hope to be able to arrive at a joint agenda for European coordination of Plant Genomics by the end of the workshop.

Second (follow-up) workshop

If the outcome of the kick-off workshop is positive, we plan to organise a second workshop early in 2003 in Belgium, in which we will focus on the actual content of the European coordination initiative for plant genomics, with particular regard to policy, strategy and management structure, and in such a manner that it also serves as a basis on which to formulate a proposal for an ERA-NET initiative.



Final Programme

Thursday 12 December 2002

- 12.00 hrs. Reception and informal welcome-lunch
* in 'East West Restaurant'
- 13.00 hrs. Workshop room 'Cairo and Melbourne' open
- 13.15 hrs. Welcome and introduction
* **Dr. Wouter Spek, Netherlands Genomics Initiative**
- Goals of the workshop against the background of a European Research Area (ERA)
* **Drs. Herman van der Plas, Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
Deputy member of CREST**
- Importance of Plant Genomics in Europe
* **Prof. Marc Zabeau, Ph.D., Department of Plant Systems Biology,
University of Gent
Chairman**
- 14.00 hrs. **'Grand Tour de Table'**
- Presentation of national initiatives in the field of Plant Genomics
- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| Austria | Italy |
| Belgium | Netherlands |
| Denmark | Norway |
| Estonia | Poland |
| Finland | Portugal |
| France | Romania |
| Germany | Scotland |
| Greece | Spain |
| Hungary | Sweden |
| Ireland | United Kingdom |
- 18.15 hrs. End of session
- 18.45 hrs. Transportation by coach to Amsterdam Centre
* coach is ready at the entrance of Hilton Hotel
- 19.30 hrs. Start boat trip
* including informal dinner
- 21.30 hrs. Return to the hotel by coach (ready at Pier)
- 22.00 hrs. After dinner drinks in Garden Room Hilton Hotel

Friday 13 December 2002

- 09.00 hrs. Opening by the chairman
* Workshop room 'Garden Room'
- 09.15 hrs. The ERA-NET Scheme
* **Mrs. Christine Simon, European Commission**
- 09.30 hrs. 5 minutes walk to World Trade Centre
- 09.35 hrs. Breakout sessions
* **moderator group 1: Dr. Michel Caboche, France**
* **moderator group 2: Dr. Zoltan Somogyi, Hungary**

Brainstorm on the basis of questionnaires
- 11.00 hours Break
- 11.30 hours Summary and conclusions
- 12.15 hours End of morning session
- 12.30 hours Transportation by coach for lunch

* Coach ready at Hilton Hotel Entrance
 Transportation to Restaurant De Kas ('the Greenhouse')
- 13.00 hours Lunch
- 15.00 hours End of the kick-off meeting, coach to Hilton Hotel at Schiphol Airport



Report

Workshop **'Towards European Coordination of Plant Genomics'**

Thursday December 12, 2002

The workshop opened with presentations by Wouter Spek of the Netherlands Genomics Initiative, Herman van der Plas of the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and Marc Zabeau, chairman of the workshop. They set out the European context for organising this workshop and outlined the opportunities and objectives of European co-ordination of plant genomics. After this introduction, all participating countries presented their activities with respect to plant genomics (the presentations are enclosed). Despite the huge diversity in programmes, approaches and activities, there appeared to be striking similarities between the various countries. The open character of the meeting created a very co-operative atmosphere and contributed to a successful first day.

Friday December 13, 2002

After the general overview that was presented on the first day, the second day was devoted to tackling practical issues on how we should proceed towards a collective ERA-net proposal. The participants were divided into two groups: Scientists and Policymakers. Each group spent an hour discussing the best approach for co-ordination in plant genomics. The reports of both sessions are enclosed. The workshop was concluded with a plenary session in which both session chairmen presented the results of the separate discussions. In both groups, 'homework' was assigned to volunteers to prepare for the second workshop in March 2003.

Breakout session I. Policymakers

December 13, 2002

Report of the discussion

Author **Marianne Slot**

Present

Zoltan Somogyi (Hungary, session chairman), Mika Tirronen (Finland), Elisabeth Hammer (Austria), Catherine Kistner (Germany), Frank Laplace (Germany), Jose Bonfim (Portugal), Guillermo Cardon (EC), Alf Game (UK), Wouter Spek (Netherlands), Kristin Rasmussen Modalsli (Norway), Rosa Rodriguez Bernabé (Spain), Gloria Celebre (Italy), Indridi Benediktsson (partly) (EC), Daniel Richard-Molard (France), Herman van der Plas (Netherlands), Karin Metzloff (European Plant Science Organisation), Christine Simon (EC), Marianne Slot (Netherlands, Publimarket/Netherlands Genomics Initiative - report)

Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman indicated that the first goal is to establish a network that will exchange information and seek possibilities for opening up national research programmes, with or without the help of ERA-net. But he concluded from the earlier discussion that all participants are interested in preparing an ERA-net proposal. We have 5 months to do this: it is up to us now to decide what to do and to establish an agenda, while realising that the organisation of this workshop places us in a good starting position as compared with other ERA-net proposals. The question now is more “How?” And “who takes the lead?”.

First of all, a short introduction round was made.

The discussed topics were:

1. Where do we begin? How do we proceed?
2. The ERA-net scheme itself, and its conditions
3. Bottlenecks:
 - Problem of harmonisation (asynchrony of deadlines, etc)
 - Intellectual property rights
 - Involvement of Industrial partners
 - The social and ethical aspect of Plant Genomics and dialogue with the public
 - Small programmes/countries
 - Solidarity question (as compared with a “juste retour” approach);
 - Mandate (which seems to be rather unbalanced at the moment).

Discussion and conclusions

1. Where do we begin? How do we proceed?

Only a small majority of the group appeared to be ready at this moment for an ERA-net proposal. It would be better therefore to identify distinct science fields that offer clear added value (e.g. (training in) bio-informatics, biological complex systems) and are suitable for joint research. **All parties present agreed to focus on basic research, without excluding the involvement of private companies.**

In the past many attempts have been made to come to some sort of cooperation, but they have all failed. So to make a difference, a step-by-step approach is required, possibly involving the following steps:

1. What national strategies do we all have, and what do we have 'in the box' for national cooperation?
2. Try in workshops to identify the bottlenecks in national programmes for cooperation
3. In 2 to 3 years' time: how to open up our programmes.

We should all do some homework by mapping out what each country does in this area, and use this information towards opening up the national programmes in the long run. Also, the brief experience with building up the cooperation between GABI and Génoplant provides interesting input for further work.

Rather than focus solely on ERA-net, there are also other parts of FP6 that should be considered (e.g. shared use of bio-informatic data on the basis of Research Infrastructure). The exchange on Thursday was very informative, there appeared to be a great deal of potential, and there is so much to learn. Some countries are more advanced than others, some are just starting, and we should help and learn from each other. We must be flexible about our aspirations, it takes time, and it is incredibly interesting. The real challenge is to arrive at integrated research. It was also stressed that networking could help towards putting Plant Genomics in a better starting position for the Seventh Framework Programme.

2. The ERA-net scheme, and its conditions

ERA-net covers a broad field without laying down clear definitions and regulations. It is more about what a country wants, it is an 'à la carte' scheme. The only thing ERA-net does **not** support is the research itself. Also, if it is necessary - in order to facilitate the opening up a national programme – to discuss the issue on a national level it might be possible to fund these meetings through ERA-net. It is absolutely necessary that the plan involves some form of national scale or strategy; it must go beyond 'the institute'.

The ERA-net scheme does not give a definition of a national programme, but as long as there is a ministerial policy behind the plan, there is no objection against involvement of industries, as long as these industries also provide funding.

3. Intellectual property rights

In itself, intellectual property is not an issue with regard to ERA-net proposals, according to the Commission representatives. However, a conference about identifying and solving problems around intellectual property rights might very well be eligible for ERA-net funding.

Due to lack of time the other identified topics could not be discussed, they will have to wait until the next meeting. These topics are:

- Involvement of Industrial partners;
- Problem of harmonisation (asynchrony of deadlines, etc.)
- The social and ethical aspect of Plant Genomics
- Involvement of small countries/programmes
- Solidarity question (in comparison with a “juste retour” approach)
- Mandate (which seems to be rather unbalanced at the moment)

Conclusions

- The first step must be to organise ourselves in a platform.
- Everybody will make a summary setting out their national activities in Plant Genomics and their national strategy with regard to Plant Genomics. This summary will complement the information that resulted from the presentations and questionnaire completed during this workshop (to be distributed by e-mail before Christmas).
- Alf Game of the UK has volunteered to make a draft-template for this in order to get comparable data, and a core group of the participants will elaborate on his proposal, and send the final version around to all participants.
- The template will be distributed before January 15. All participants must return it before February 15, so we can use it as input for a 2nd workshop that will be prepared by a core group consisting of Zoltan Somogyi (Chairman), Alf Game, Wouter Spek, Marc Zabeau, (Marianne Slot).
- This 2nd workshop will be held in Belgium, the proposed dates are **March 12/13** or **March 17/18**. Everyone will receive an e-mail requesting to indicate his/her preference.
- EPSO has a website, and is willing to facilitate publication by adding a separate part dedicated to Plant Genomics and national programmes. This website can be used to disseminate the results of this workshop and inform parties of further developments.

Breakout session II. Scientists

December 13, 2002

Report of the discussion

Author Esther Thole

Present

Gerhard Adam (Austria), Indridi Benediktsson (EC, observer), James Burke (Ireland), Michel Caboche (France, session chairman), Paolo Constantini (Italy), Andreas Doulis (Greece), Denes Dudits (Hungary), Silvia Fluch (Austria), Jens Freitag (Germany), Lucian Gavrila (Romania), Jacek Hennig (Poland), Dominique Job (France), Jaakko Kangasjarvi (Finland), Sean May (UK), Maria Salomé Pais (Portugal), Willem Stiekema (Netherlands), Mark Stitt (Germany), Jens Stougaard Jensen (Denmark), Athanassios Tsaftaris (Greece), Tomas Twardowski (Poland), Pablo Vera (Spain), Robbie Waugh (UK), Marc Zabeau (Belgium, chairman of the workshop), Esther Thole (Netherlands, Publimarket/Netherlands Genomics Initiative - report)

Topics

1. Should a National Programme be a requirement for countries to participate in the ERA-net proposal? And what if there is more than one National Programme?
2. The organisation of a co-ordinated programme: how do we move from bilateral to multilateral agreements?
3. The scientific content of a co-ordinated programme. How to define the focus, e.g. species by species?
4. Training, workshops, etc., that are linked to the programme. Access to genomics facilities.
5. Genomics and society: should we include the societal impact in the ERA-net proposal?
6. Duplication of research vs. synergy.
7. Minimal requirements from scientists to policymakers to create a good working environment. Short-term: what can we do without requiring changes in the various ministries and government bodies. Long-term: how will they have to change to ensure real mutual opening up of national programmes.

Discussion and conclusions

1. A national programme is not a hard requirement for ERA-net and the group feels that **the ERA-net proposal should not exclude countries for not having a national programme**. It will probably work the other way around; participating in the ERA-net proposal can stimulate countries in setting-up a national programme. It can be used to put pressure on governments to establish such a programme. A national programme is usually a combination of several (existing) initiatives, but by coming together it creates visibility both at a national and an international level. **It is essential however that each participating country has one representative with a mandate from his/her government.**

2. The ERA-net should be a multinational umbrella that can cover various specific programmes. By managing the different bi- and multilateral agreements, the ERA-net can avoid duplication and co-ordinate the set-up of and access to technological platforms. Interested parties can set-up a programme under the heading of ERA-net. It is important to realise that a network is essentially a combination of a number of bilateral agreements, not all parties are involved in every activity. **To start, there should be a pragmatic approach: combine the current bi- and trilateral initiatives and work on organisational issues along the way. The proposal should include an application for funding for a meeting that can be used to discuss the content of the various programmes. For instance, the next Plant GEM meeting organised in the UK could host sessions where important goals in plant genomics could be identified and collaborations set up under the umbrella of the ERA net.** This should ensure an optimisation of the content and avoid the setting up of new bilateral agreements that could lead to duplication. This mechanism offers the opportunity for small countries to join a programme without pressing them to first establish a (big) national programme. We do not start from zero, there is already a lot of work going on and we should build further on that. **A need-driven instead of a top-down approach is essential.** The European umbrella will not prescribe the research that should be done. The ERA-net does not provide funding for the research itself, but instead for co-ordinating the various activities and it can thereby contribute to the set-up of new scientific programmes.

Co-ordinator

. Jens Freitag [Freitag@mpimp-golm.mpg.de]

3. The scientific content of the proposal will be divided into three areas:

- Structural genomics
- Functional analysis
- Genomics & Biodiversity

The various smaller and larger programmes will be coupled to one of these areas. Within the areas, the research can be grouped according to species. **An inventory of current activities in the three areas will be drawn up to prepare the ERA-net proposal.**

Co-ordinators

. Structural genomics - Pablo Vera [vera@ibmcp.upv.es]
. Functional analysis - Pierre Hilson [pihil@gengenp.rug.ac.be]
. Genomics & Biodiversity - Robbie Waugh [RWaugh@scri.sari.ac.uk]

4. **Training** has to be organised of young scientists at places where expertise in genomics already exists, as well as organising workshops and practical courses.

Co-ordinator not identified. **Athanassios Tsaftaris [Tsaft@agro.auth.gr] (suggested by M. Caboche)**

Indridi Benediktsson stresses that **the training activities included in the proposal should not only be focused on science, but should also include more peripheral issues like intellectual property rights**. He points out that the evaluators of the various ERA-net proposals have a very general knowledge of the fields and that the plant genomics proposal will have to compete with proposals from totally different fields. He also points out that within Priority 1 (FP-6), 30% of the budget is earmarked for small projects and that plant genomics proposals could be awarded. ERA-net is not compensation for FP-6, in which plant science is not mentioned. ERA-net will exclude proposals with comparable objectives similar to those that have been submitted for FP-6. **However, plant genomics has been named a special area by CREST and if a decent proposal is submitted, it will almost certainly be funded.**

5. **Everyone feels that public awareness programmes need to be included in the ERA-net proposal.** The Netherlands will take the lead in writing a first concept.

Co-ordinator

. **Willem Stiekema [w.j.stiekema@plant.wag-ur.nl]**

6. The best way to avoid duplication in research (both public and private) is to exchange knowledge in the most open and transparent manner. **The linking of all available databases is an important first step.**

Co-ordinator

. **Sean May [Sean@arabidopsis.info]**

There are three stages in the information exchange:

- Prior to starting: communicate plans so that duplication can be avoided at a very early stage
- **Sharing of resources: also while projects are running**
- **Sharing of results: data should be publicly available**

Genomics resources and genomics platforms have to be identified and access to these resources and platforms has to be organised on a realistic basis. It is not necessary to physically bring together all resources, facilities and data, but broad access and adequate networking are needed. Meetings are also an important exchange platform.

Co-ordinators

. **Dominique Job [dominique.job@bayercropscience.com]**

. **Mark Stitt [mstitt@mpimp-golm.mpg.de]**

7. **We should have insight into the minimal barriers that need to be taken at ministry-level in the various countries to ensure a workable situation in the short term.** The ERA-net will function as an interface between scientists and government bodies and it should define a standardised form of national programmes. However, this is a long-term objective that will not be included in the proposal.

Co-ordinator: **Mark Stitt, mstitt@mpimp-golm.mpg.de**
Dominique Job, dominique.job@bayercropscience.com

General

- All co-ordinators will draw up a first concept on their assigned topics, preferably a one-page document. Michel Caboche will collect the different documents once they have been finalised. Of course, they can/will communicate with members of this group and others on the topic. **All concepts should be ready at the end of January**, so that in February all concepts will be circulating in the group for comments and that all revised documents are ready before the second workshop in March.
- Michel Caboche [caboche@versailles.inra.fr] and Marc Zabeau [marc.zabeau@rug.ac.be] will draw up an introduction (goals and history of plant genomics) for the proposal.
- EPSO can be helpful in providing an overview of all current plant science activities
- **The proposed dates for the second workshop are March 12/13 or March 17/18.** Everyone will receive an e-mail requesting to indicate his/her preference.



Participants

By order of country

	Country	Title & initials	Surname	First Name	Institution/company name
1	Austria	Dr. G.	Adam	Gerhard	Zentrum f. Angew. Genetik, Universität für Bodenkultur
2	Austria	Mag. S.	Fluch	Silvia	ARC Seibersdorf Research
3	Austria	RL Mag. E.	Hammer	Elisabeth	Bundesministerium für (UE) Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur
4	Belgium	Dr. P.	Hilson	Pierre	VIB-RUG
5	Belgium	Prof. M.	Zabeau	Marc	Department of Plant Systems Biology, Gent University
6	Denmark	Ass. Prof. J.	Stougaard Jensen	Jens	Laboratory of Gene Expression, University of Aarhus
7	Estonia	Prof. E.	Truve	Erkki	Department for Gene Technology, Tallinn Technical University
8	Finland	Prof. J.	Kangasjarvi	Jaakko	Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, Department of Biology
9	Finland	Dr. M.	Tirronen	Mika	Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki
10	France	Dr. M.	Caboche	Michel	Laboratoire de Biologie des Semences, INRA
11	France	Dr. D.	Job	Dominique	Bayer CropScience Laboratoire Mixte CNRS (UMR 1932)
12	France	Dr.	Richard-Molard	Daniel	French Ministry of research and education
13	Germany	Dr. J.	Freitag	Jens	Genomanalyse im Biologischen System Pflanze (GABI)
14	Germany	Dr. C.	Kistner	Catherine	DFG, Molecular Plant Science
15	Germany	Dr. F.	Laplace	Frank	Federal Ministry of Education and Research
16	Germany	Prof. L.	Nover	Lutz	Goethe University, Dept. Molecular Cell Biology, Biocenter

	Country	Title & initials	Surname	First Name	Institution/company name
17	Greece	A.	Doulis	Andreas	National Agricultural Research Foundation of Greece
18	Greece	Prof. T.S.	Athanasios	Athanasios	Institute of Agrobiotechnology Certh. Greece/University of Thessalonki, Dpt. of Genetics and Plant Breeding
19	Hungary	Prof. Dr. D.	Dudits	Denes	Szegedi Biologiai Kozpont, MTA
20	Hungary	Dr. Z.	Somogyi	Zoltán	Ministry of Education, Department for Bio- and Agrotechnologies
21	Ireland	Prof. J.	Burke	James	National Crops Research Centre
22	Italy	G.	Celebre	Gloria	Representive of the Ministry (MIUR)
23	Italy	Prof. Dr. P.	Constantino	Paolo	Università "La Sapienza"
24	Netherlands	Drs. H.C.	Plas, van der	Herman	Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
25	Netherlands	Dr. W.	Spek	Wouter	Netherlands Genomics Initiative
26	Netherlands	Prof. Dr. W.J.	Stiekema	Willem	Centre for BioSystems Genomics
27	Norway	K.	Rasmussen Modalsli	Kristin	The Research Council of Norway
28	Poland	Dr. J.	Hennig	Jacek	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics
29	Poland	Prof. T.	Twardowski	Tomasz	Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
30	Portugal	J.	Bonfim	Jose	Office for International Relations on Science and Higher Education
31	Portugal	Prof. M.	Salomé Pais	Maria	Laboratory of plant biotechnology ICAT
32	Romania	Prof. Dr.	Gavrila	Lucian	Genetics Institute of Bucharest University
33	Scotland	Dr. R.	Waugh	Robbie	Genome Dynamics Scottish Crop Research Institute Invergowrie
34	Spain	Dr. R.	Rodríguez Bernabé	Rosa	Ministry of Science and Technology
35	Spain	Prof.	Vera	Pablo	Instituto de Biología Molecular y celular de Plantas (IBMCP), Universidad Politécnica de Valencia-CSIC
36	Switzerland	Prof. C.	Kühlemeier	Cris	Institute of Plant Sciences
37	United Kingdom	Dr. A.	Game	Alf	BBSRC
38	United Kingdom	Dr. S.	May	Sean	Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Centre (NASC) Plant Science Division

Country	Title & initials	Surname	First Name	Institution/company name
----------------	-----------------------------	----------------	-------------------	---------------------------------

Observers

39	EU	Dr. I.	Benediktsson	Indridi	European Commission
40	EU	Dr. G.	Cardon	Guillermo	European Commission
41	Belgium	Dr.	Metzlaff	Karin	European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)
42	EU	C.	Simon	Christine	European Comission - Directorate B, unit 2 European DG Research Area - structural aspects
43	Netherlands	D.A.	Schoorel	Dick	EG Liaison

Organisation

Netherlands	P.B.	Waal, de	Ellen	Netherlands Genomics Initiative / Publimarket
Netherlands	M.	Slot	Marianne	Publimarket
Netherlands	E.	Thole	Esther	Publimarket

Contact

The Netherlands



Spek, Dr. W. [Wouter]

- **Netherlands Genomics Initiative**
Postbus 93035, 2509 AA, The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone +31703440815, Fax +31703440632
Email spek@genomics.nl



Waal, P.B. de [Ellen]

- - organisation & logistics -
Netherlands Genomics Initiative
p/a Publimarket B.V.
Wassenaarseweg 23, 2596 CE, The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone +31703561534, Fax +31703560349
Email waal@genomics.nl

Belgium



Zabeau, Prof. M. [Marc]

- **Department of Plant Systems Biology, Gent University**
K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000, Gent, Belgium
Phone +3292648738, Fax +3292203359
Email marc.zabeau@rug.ac.be



Sormann, M. [Monika]

- **Ministry of Flanders, Technology and Innovation Division**
Boudewijnlaan 30, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone +3225535864, Fax +32 225535981
Email monika.sormann@wim.vlaanderen.be