

## **Final Report Activity**

### ***Meetign with Prof. De Castro Chairman of Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament, "The root causes of the new race to the earth and exclusion from the right to food. The role of Europe and the work of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament "***

Bologna, 19 November 2012, 9.30

c/o Food Trend Foundation, Via Castiglione n. 14

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In Italy Focsiv decided to exploit the opportunity to create and stranghten his ties with the President of the Agricultural Committe of the European Parliament, Mr. Paolo De Castro. The idea was to exchange views with Mr. De Castro about the evolving debate on the new CAP programming.

Focsiv met Mr. De Castro two times: the first was during the conference organised in Bologna (Workshop n. 20: " The Earth as common good. Resource management, agricultural policies and cooperation in the era of land grabbing", 26/10/2012 Bologna) and the second in a personal meeting, held in Bologna on 19/11/2012.

The purpose of the interview was to explore the theme of the new resources' scarcity that characterizes and hallmark of the future European and global level, with the consequences related, in terms of dynamics and political tensions, economic and social, local and global land grabbing, denial of the right to food, financial speculation on commodities, the need for new models of production and consumption of food, investment in research and new technologies such compelling answers to the new paradigm of scarcity of resources and food.

In this context fits the work of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament, as well as the process of CAP reform which should be completed in the coming months. The interview provided the opportunity to identify possible common pathways in terms of lobbying and awareness raising, both in respect of civil society, and decision makers, that NGOs FOCSIV active on these issues, in network and cooperation with

other actors such as farmers' organizations, consumer organizations, financial entities, research institutes, enterprises, may validly proceed in a common commitment to the need for greater awareness in Europe on the issue of food sovereignty and the adoption of a new global strategy on it.

Mr. De Castro is convinced that the new CAP programming is trapped in the old negotiation issues about the distribution of direct payments among the Member Countries with some innovative elements on greening measure. But very few reflection is dedicated to the real new scenario of the world race to strategic resources, and its implications in terms of land grabbing, price increase and security conflicts.

In this sense he agreed with Focsiv about the necessity to organise a specific meeting on this issue between NGOs and the Agricultural Committee. Focsiv proposed to involve in the meeting the central role of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) of the UN. The coherence between CAP and Development Cooperation, and the creation of new rules for a global governance on the management of strategic resources, should be placed in the most important multilateral forum. The NGOs, Focsiv and Misereor in the CIDSE umbrella organisation, are struggling to sustain CFS at the center of the world negotiations. Mr. De Castro was open to exchange information about the CFS process . Even if the project finished at the end of 2012, Focsiv is continuing to follow the possibility to organise a meeting with the Agricultural Commission in 2013. CIDSE and the Civil Society Mechanism linked to the CFS are discussing about this opportunity and a decision should be taken in July 2013.