**EURAGRI WORKSHOP** (by invitation only, 20-25 persons)

14 June 2012, 11.00 – 17.00

CLORA, 8 avenue des Arts, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

**CURRENT, INTERRELATED STRATEGIC ISSUES IN EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND POLICY**

Several, recent foresights (e.g. *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). (Bengtsson et. al.) Future Agriculture – Livestock, Crops and Land use. A strategic programme for research (2010); UK Government Office for Science, The Future of Food and Farming, Final report, London, 2011; Sustainable Food consumption and Production in a Resource-Constrained World, SCAR 3rd Foresight Exercise, 2011*) describe the numerous and interlinked challenges to be tackled by the ago-food system in the mid and long-term. There is also a growing understanding that we are living in the transition period towards a bio-based society.

The on-going changes in the European system are addressed by the Innovation Union, Horizon 2020, the EU bio-economy communication and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the European Innovation partnerships (EIP), just to name a few. But the overall pattern of the transformation is not necessarily coherent or finalised in terms of consolidation of where the system is heading. Actually, a number of the discussed issues appear as partially competing or sometimes even conflicting. But in order to succeed, a multilateral and international consensus is needed.

Accordingly, several of these issues are at the moment high up on the European agenda related to European agriculture research. Very recent conferences and workshops confirm this.

Examples are:

* “Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in Transition”, SCAR CWG conference, March 2012
* “Enhancing Innovation and Delivery of Research in European Agriculture” European Commission, March 2012
* “Bio-economy in Action” Conference under the Danish EU presidency, March 2012
* “Planet under Pressure” London, March 2012

Yet, how do they connect? Are they consistent also with regard to the results of the above mentioned foresights? Can certain tendencies be identified? And how do these issues (and maybe others as well) relate to various groups of actors (ministries, research councils, research institutions, the related industries, the farming community and the consumer)? How much of the global sustainability debate is visible in the current EU discussions of strategic nature?

The EURAGI workshop addresses the following core questions within the described context:

* What are the trends with regard to focus points – research items (e.g. research interests), time frames (short to long term), political highlights and code-words (e.g. green-economy, Innovation Union, CAP)?
* Do global, European, national and regional dimensions and interests connect?
* How to combine the interests of food security, rural development and industry?
* What are next steps of initiatives and when?
* How do the different and diverse actors involved in the system assess the situation?

The one day workshop will deal with these topics through short initial presentations on core topics followed by considerable time blocks for discussions of informal nature. Participants are encouraged to participate in the event in personal capacity although the invitation intension is to have an as wide spectrum of actor voices present in the presentations and in the discussions.

11.00 **Welcome** - Bettina Heimann, Secretary General, EURAGRI

**Introduction to workshop** - Uno Svedin, member of Board EURAGRI

11.15-12.30 **Session I: Is the broad outlook of the challenges corresponding to the current and future RTD and innovation priorities?**

Moderator: Eric Regouin, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands

* Introduction - Gianluca Brunori, member of SCAR 3rd Foresight Expert Group
* Commentator: Barna Kovács, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.40 **Session II: The reform of CAP and the relation to current and future RTD and innovation priorities.**

Moderator: Elfriede Fuhrmann, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

* + - Introduction - Marcus Carson, Stockholm Environment Institute
    - Commentator: Martin Scheele, DG-agri, European Commission

14.40-15.00 Coffee

15.00-16.15 **Session III: Is the need to cover the various levels from regional to global sufficiently represented in the current and future RTD and innovation priorities?**

Moderator: Lotta Rydhmer, Swedish Agricultural University

* Introduction: Carol Crumley, University of North Carolina and Swedish Agricultural University
* Commentator: Representative ERA-net RURAGRI

16.15-17.00 **Discussion around the theme of the day and summary**

Uno Svedin – member of board EURAGRI