

Press Release

Bonn, Amsterdam, 29. April 2008

The Activism Network COP 9— has been founded in order to critically accompany the CBD member state conference

Environmental diplomacy continues its course. In two weeks the UN negotiations on the Biosafety Protocol as well as the Biodiversity Convention will take place in Bonn. Yet there is nothing to celebrate about this: in the name of environmental conservation human rights are being violated; agricultural products are being turned into fuel; plants are patented and genetically modified trees are bred.

„ *The negotiations are steps in the wrong direction*“ says Anne Schweigler, representative of the BUKO Campaign against Biopiracy and the newly formed **Activism Network COP 9**.

“Transnational Companies advertise their miraculous technologies. However, the only purpose of these is to increase their control over natural resources. For this reason, small farmers from around the world are coming to Bonn in order to defend the diversity of their crops, as well as their collective rights on natural resources”, adds Guy Kastler from the international farmers' network, Via Campesina

„*We will critically accompany the conference and will be active in public spaces*“ promised the initiators of the Network. Half a dozen initiatives have come together in order to reveal the weak areas of diplomacy as well as to protest.

For further information, please refer to the telephone contacts listed here or visit our website.

Activism Network COP 9:

Actionnetwork Global
Farming
ASEED Europe
Bonner Working Group
against Gentechnology
BUKO Campaign against
Biopiracy
Corporate Europe Observer
Green Youth
Free Knowledge Network
Via Campesina

Contact:

Info-Phone: 0151-51806945
(starting Mai, 5th 2008)

<http://biotech.indymedia.org>

Press Contacts:

Flip Vonk (ASEED)
+31-6-17836486

Gregor Kaiser (BUKO)
+49-151-18187950

Anne Schweigler (BUKO)
+49-162-5137237

Morgan Ody (Via Campesina)
+32-4-86888845

c/o Oscar Romero Haus
Heerstr. 205
53111 Bonn