

Italian NGO *Mani Tese* hands 10,000 signatures to the European Parliament asking for Food Sovereignty in Europe Now!

Brussels, 30 January 2013: Between October and December 2012, Mani Tese collected signatures in support of the appeal "Food Sovereignty in Europe, Now!" The action came into life in August 2011 when 400 delegates from 34 countries met in Krems, Austria for the first European Forum on the issue of Food Sovereignty in Europe.¹

The petition calls for agricultural policies and food companies to endorse 6 major changes and is based on the belief that "the adoption of an ecologically sustainable and socially fair food system must be a first step towards a broader change in our society."

Joshua De Salvo, responsible for advocacy at Mani Tese met Paolo De Castro, chairman of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, a key figure in the ongoing CAP reform. Mr de Castro expressed a strong appreciation for the initiative signed by 7500 European citizens and 2500 citizens from Africa. He pledged his commitment to ensure that the petition's requests are endorsed.

According to De Castro, *"The exponential growth in demand, especially in specific regions of the world, such as China, India and Brazil, means that food is destined to become an insufficient and expensive resource. Today's challenge is to increase the productivity with fewer resources and less pollution."*



In Brussels MANI TESE met with Mr. Paolo De Castro

"It is urgent to protect our natural resources and to drastically reduce the agricultural sector's CO2 footprint. An increase in productivity cannot be the EU's scope of food and agricultural policies. First you have to deal with a system that wastes 40% of food products, which allocates 1 billion tons of grain to feeding livestock, which sees 10 corporations control the global market for seeds, pesticides and fertilizers ...," said De Salvo.

In addition to Mr. De Salvo the delegation consisted of Luca Colombo, coordinator of FIRAB - Italian Foundation for Research in Organic Agriculture and a member of the organizing committee of the Nyéléni 2011 Forum, and Elena Piastra, representing Co.Co.Pa - Coordination of Municipalities for Peace.

For more information visit www.manitese.it

¹ <http://www.nyelenieurope.net>