



House of Commons Debates How They Work

In order to prepare participants for the BioDialogues, **EuroBio 2008** will begin on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 with three debates in the **House of Commons** (UK parliament) format. Motions will be of the kind that requires a simple yes or no: for example “**are biofuels exacerbating starvation around the world**”? The motion will be projected on a screen. Two banks of benches will be arranged facing each other and participants will choose their camp according to their initial point of view regarding the motion: for or against. Four short speeches will have been prepared in advance: two for and two against. The “Prime Minister” makes the first of these speeches, in favour of the motion. There then follows an open debate during which anyone present may comment, on condition that they can catch the Moderator's eye. At any point during these comments and speeches attendees may get up and walk over to the opposing benches, if they have been won over by the speaker. And, of course, they may get up and return to their former bench if the following speaker or comment can sway them! Whether or not the debate is carried depends on a tally of the number of participants who have changed benches.

The Rising Generation, comprised of the best and brightest PhDs/Postdocs throughout Europe, and beyond, will constitute a “super jury”: they will be solicited at turning points in the debates to give their views and ask their questions, and they will be asked to vote as a block at the end of the debate to provide a second, “alternative” outcome to the official outcome.

**Join in the EuroBio 2008 House of Commons Debates
and
MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN**

