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Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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INFORMATION TO MEMBERS

EMPOWERING LEARNING AND IMPACT: BTSF IN YOUR LANGUAGE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The following communication, received on 24 October 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

1. The European Union is hosting a hybrid SPS side event, "**Empowering Learning and Impact: BTSF in your language**" which will be held on 14 November 2023 at 14:00 (CET), during which the European Commission will introduce its Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative, its impact, the BTSF ACADEMY, and multilingual options to access training materials from both face-to-face and eLearning courses.
2. Better Training for Safer Food is a European Commission [training initiative](#) to improve the knowledge and implementation of EU rules, taking into account international standards, covering food and feed safety, plant, animal, and human health. It also provides trainings on One Health, and animal welfare.
3. Since it started in 2005, BTSF has held over 3,000 training events and trained over 85,000 participants. 20% of BTSF activities are dedicated to non-EU activities.
4. BTSF courses, available to competent authority officials, are a powerful tool for training regulators, and then disseminating that information to farmers, food and agricultural sector business operators, international agricultural development professionals, and other stakeholders.
5. [BTSF ACADEMY](#) is the European Commission's single learning and information portal on BTSF training activities for competent authority staff and stakeholders in member States and non-EU countries with over 19,000 registered users. Here you can find relevant information on over 120 thematic training courses (eLearning, face-to-face courses, and virtual classrooms), training material ([BTSF library](#)), training providers and contact information. eLearning courses are hosted on the BTSF ACADEMY platform. There have been over 21,000 enrolments for eLearning since 2018, with a third originating in non-EU countries.
6. BTSF face-to-face courses may be, depending upon topic, geared to officials from EU member States, non-EU countries, or a mixture of both. Officials may apply for face-to-face training through their [BTSF National Contact Points \(NCPs\) or their hierarchy if no NCP has been designated](#). All the training material from the face-to-face courses is available to officials for further learning and dissemination in multilingual format on BTSF ACADEMY.
7. BTSF also offers short duration sustained training missions, geared to an individual country's needs, and developed in cooperation with European Commission and technical experts to address a specific topic e.g., developing residue monitoring or contingency plans.

8. There are 14 eLearning courses (more in development) on BTSF ACADEMY. To apply for a course, please use the [BTSF eLearning application form](#) and select your choice of language.
 9. The event will give an overview of BTSF activities, highlighting the scope of training material available, its training impact, and offering a demonstration on how to use the online resources and the [multilingual](#) facilities in the ACADEMY.
 10. The European Commission welcomes the opportunity to share more information about BTSF at the side event on 14 November.
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