

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IN THE SPS SECTOR**

Communication by the European Communities

The following communication, received on 3 April 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the European Communities.

1. The European Commission wishes to announce its intention to run SPS workshops and seminars during the course of 2008, as follows:

I. ORGANIZED BY DG TRADE

2. DG TRADE wishes to inform the SPS Committee of the following training courses and seminars planned in 2008. The Commission wishes to stress the need to select the appropriate candidates for each course. The seminars are aimed at decision makers which are actively involved in setting up national programmes, in order to have a better understanding of the EC system. The trainings related to laboratories are very practical in nature and aimed at laboratory staff (rather than administrators) who carry out testing of foodstuffs and other materials for the presence of contaminants or microbiological agents.

3. Please note that the WTO Members to be invited have been already pre-selected by the European Communities and official invitations will be sent to the respective competent authorities via the EC Delegation located in the capital cities.

4. Due to the tight time schedule for some of these seminars, the European Communities would like to bring to the attention of pre-selected countries that an official confirmation of their attendance should be forwarded as soon as possible to the EC Delegation in its respective capital, in order to trigger the appropriate financial and administrative procedures.

5. Further details can be obtained with hans.joostens@ec.europa.eu.

SUBJECT	VENUE	DATES (provisional)	TARGET AUDIENCE
Seminar on SPS issues	Brussels	2-4 June	Administrators from India
Training on residues and contaminants analysis	Laberca, Nantes, France	2-13 June	Laboratory technicians actively engaged in testing of residues in food materials
Training on microbiology analysis	Campden and Chorley Wood Food Research Association (CCFRA), Gloucestershire, United Kingdom	11-22 August	Laboratory technicians actively engaged in testing of microbiological agents in food materials
Training on aflatoxin analysis	Technical University Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany	1-12 September	Laboratory technicians actively engaged in testing of aflatoxins/ochratoxin A in food materials
Seminar on EC legislation in the SPS sector – Sanitary issues (fisheries)	Brussels	6-10 October	SPS administrators and decision makers
Seminar on EC legislation in the SPS sector – Phytosanitary issues	Brussels	20-24 October	SPS administrators and decision makers
Seminar on meat traceability	Brussels	17-21 November	Administrators and decision makers
Seminar on SPS issues	Brussels	26-28 November	Administrators from ASEAN countries

II. ORGANIZED BY DG HEALTH AND CONSUMERS (DG SANCO)

6. Under its "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative, DG SANCO wishes to inform the SPS Committee of the following training courses in during 2008 to 2009 for mainly non-EC countries.

SUBJECT	CONTENT	DATES (§provisional)	INVITED COUNTRIES
Highly pathogenic avian influenza	Workshop to identify HPAI training needs	2 April 2008	All EC member States and beneficiary countries, international organizations
	Sustained field training in close coordination with international organizations	April 2008- mid 2009	Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco and possibly some EC member States (TBC)
	Laboratory training in diagnostic methods for HPAI, Italy	2 sessions	idem

SUBJECT	CONTENT	DATES (§provisional)	INVITED COUNTRIES
Food testing in six ASEAN reference laboratories	Training of laboratory staff in state-of-the-art analytical methods	Autumn 2008	ASEAN countries
Rapid alert system for feed and food	Presentation of the EC system on RASFF	- 1-3 April 2008 - 3-5 June 2008 - 28-30 October 2008	- Morocco - Indonesia - Turkey
Ttraces system	Presentation of the EC system for traceability (TRACES)	- 25-29 February 2008 - 10-14 March 2008 - 7-9 April 2008	- Thailand - Morocco - Singapore
EC food standards on fishery products	EC legislation and hands-on workshop	two 3-day workshops - 22-24 April 2008 - 10-12 June 2008	- Philippines - Jamaica
EC food standards on fruits and vegetables	EC legislation and hands-on workshop	- 27-29 May 2008 - 1-3 July 2008	- Tunisia - India
Food labelling and traceability	EC requirements on food labelling and traceability	11-13 March 2008	Thailand
Conference on food labelling	EC requirements on food labelling and traceability	14-17 March 2008	Macao, China
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	21-23 October 2008	South Africa
Plant protection products	EC requirements as regards plant protection products, and new developments	11-13 November 2008	Ethiopia
Residue monitoring planning	Residue monitoring planning	- 9-11 December 2008 - 7-9 April 2009	- Brazil - Singapore
Food safety	Hygiene control of the food chain	10-12 February 2009	Argentina

7. Further details on these workshops can be obtained at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training/index_en.htm, or with Isabelle.Rollier@ec.europa.eu and Sanco-trainingforsafefood@ec.europa.eu, including any requests for future training.