

DRAFT

European Network of GMO Laboratories.

June 2000

Background and Objectives of Network

The JRC has recognised for some time the need for sound scientific reference in the area of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). In particular the detection, identification and quantification of GMOs poses major challenges particularly as reliable methods are required in the context of the implementation of European and national legislation.

In November 1999 the JRC organised an Ad hoc meeting of the Member States Competent Authorities on methods for detection of GMO-derived foodstuffs. A key recommendation from that meeting was for the setting up of a network for the laboratories of the Member States Competent Authorities. It was also recommended that the network should not duplicate or overlap the work carried out by others such as CEN TC275 groups. It should rather fill the gap between public standardisation and all regulatory commitments of the Community.

The objectives of the network were defined as follows. The network should act as a tool facilitating and speeding up:

- the information collection (e.g. data bases on gene sequences and analytical methods) and exchange, noteworthy the technical confident data,
- the coordination of tasks to reduce the upscaling of related costs,
- the identification and solution of the technical gaps (e.g. analytical methods and their interpretation) or needs such as reference material and sampling plans,
- the online access to shared expertise.

It was also recommended that the JRC should coordinate this network. The kick-off meeting of the network took place in Ispra, Italy on 13-14/06/2000.

Membership of Network

The membership of the network reflects its current focus on GMO methodology (Annex 1: Kick of meeting, List of Participants). It includes representatives from 34 organisations with each of the member states represented. While the majority of the membership come from laboratories directly involved in control/enforcement of relevant European/National legislation a number of the laboratories are part of important national research organisations e.g. BgVV (Germany), INETI ¹(Portugal), INRA¹ (France), NAGREF (Greece), ISS (Italy), CSL (UK) and INIA (Spain). While the network allows the “official” laboratories of the member states to interact with each other in a confidential manner it was recognised at the kick off meeting that the network must also allow the participation of a wider range of laboratories/research organisations. These participants may be located either within or outside the European Union. Of particular relevance is the participation of Switzerland whose official laboratories have also a requirement to run quantification methods in order to confirm less than 1% GMO ingredients in food, according to Swiss federal law. Participation from candidate member countries to the EU was also considered important as was the

¹ Members of CERCLE core group.

involvement of relevant Industry (e.g. food and instrumentation sectors) and key European research organisations not already included in the network.

The appropriate Commission Services attend the network meetings and clarify the various legislative aspects as they arise.

Structure and Function of Network

At the kick off meeting the network unanimously decided that for the moment it should focus exclusively on efforts related to detection, identification and quantification of GMOs. In Jan 2001 it would review the situation and may consider further research topics at that time. This focusing is a reflection of the important and complex challenges with regard to GMO methodology.

The network will have 2 Plenary meetings per year – these will consist of a closed session restricted to official member states laboratories involved in control/enforcement. This could be the 2nd of a 2-day meeting. The first day will consider the reports of its technical working groups, discuss various research developments and interact with invited speakers. A bureau of the network will organise such meetings and also assist in the advancement and monitoring of the agreed work programme. There will be 4 working groups:

1. Reference Materials –
this group will be involved in discussion on reference materials (biological samples, different matrices, DNA samples, plasmid samples,...), including the specificity of procedures, the specificity of extraction methods, the need for appropriate materials for proficiency testing and for validation studies.
2. Protocols for Validation studies and Proficiency testing -
this group will consider appropriate protocols for validation studies and for proficiency testing. These discussions should also involve statisticians and should lead at appropriate validation studies that say something about the method, not about the laboratory (for the latter, proficiency tests are required).
3. Design, content and functionality of a Molecular Register –
this group will consider the design, content and functionality of a molecular register.
4. Method Comparison and Appropriateness –
this group will consider compatibility between methods and the eventual requirements for further research to understand the appropriateness of DNA and protein based methodologies.

The network will have its own Web server. In a first phase, the server will contain the possibility to hold a discussion group, will collect relevant information for the participants, their coordinates, equipment and expertise.

In July a meeting of Working Group 2 will take place preparatory to a JRC organised validation study aimed at the determination of accuracy of quantitative GMO methods at the 1% level of ingredients. It is also intended to invite Swiss and Industry representatives to this meeting. In July also a first meeting of the Working Group 3 will take place on the design of a molecular register. All working groups will have met and will report to the next plenary meeting of the network which is due to take place in Jan 2001. These working groups will be constituted in the next month or so.

Annex 1.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL JRC
 JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
 Institute for Health and Consumer Protection
 Food Products and Consumer Goods Unit
 GMO - Food and Environment

KICK-OFF MEETING:

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF GMO LABORATORIES

ISPRA, 13 – 14 JUNE 2000

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Heissenberger A.	Umweltbundesamt (UBA) Spittelauer Lände 5 A-1090 Wien	Austria	Tel.: +43-1-313043032 Fax: +43-1-313043700 heissenberger@ubavie.gv.at
Hörtner H.	Bundesanstalt für Lebensmitteluntersuchung und -forschung (BALUF) Kinderspitalgasse 15 A-1090 Wien	Austria	Tel.: +43-1-4049027843 Fax: +43-1-404909278 hoertner@baluf.gv.at
Goux S.	Federal Ministry of Public Health-Inspection of Food Avenue Pacheco 19 Boîte 5 B-1010 Brussels	Belgium	Tel.: +32-2-2104865 Fax: +32-2-2104816 sebastien.goux@health.fgov.be
Broll H.	Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin Thielallee 88-92 Postfach 33 00 13 D-14195 Berlin	Germany	Tel.: +49-30-84123639 Fax: +49-30-84123635 h.broll@bgvv.de
Buhk H.-J.	Robert Koch-Institut Zentrum Gentechnologie Wollankstraße 15-17 D-13187 Berlin	Germany	Tel: +49-30-45473000 Fax: +49-30-45473060 buhk@rki.de
Waiblinger H.-U.	Chemisches und Veterinärunter- suchungsamt Freiburg Bissierstr. 5 D-79114 Freiburg	Germany	Tel.: +49-761-8855162 Fax: +49-761-8855100 waiblinger@clua.cvuafz.bwl.de
Bojsen K.	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration Mørkhøj Bygade 19 DK-2860 Søborg	Denmark	Tel.: +45-33-956017 Fax: +45-33-956001 kmb@fdir.dk
Pedersen J.	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration Mørkhøj Bygade 19 DK-2860 Søborg	Denmark	Tel.: +45-33-956610 Fax: +45-33-956001 jp@fdir.dk

Schaarup P.H.	Ministry of the Environment and Energy The National Forest and Nature Agency Haraldsgarde 53 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø	Denmark	Tel.: +45-39-472753 Fax: +45-39-472765 psc@sns.dk
Mannonen L.	National Food Administration POB 5 FIN-00531 Helsinki	Finland	Tel.: +358-9-77267605 Fax: +358-9-77267666 leena.mannonen@elintarvikevirasto.fi
Salovuori I.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Kirkkokatu 14 P.O. Box 33 FIN-00023 Helsinki Valtioneuvosto	Finland	Tel.: +358-9-1609839 Fax: +358-9-1603876 irma.salovuori@stm.vn.fi
Savolainen A.R.	Finnish Customs Laboratory Telnikantie 13 FIN-02150 Espoo	Finland	Tel.: +358-9-6143242 Fax: +358-9-463383 savolann@tulli.fi
Bertheau Y.	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique Centre de Versailles Pathologie Végétale UR 256 Route Nationale de Saint-Cyr F-78026 Versailles Cedex	France	Tel.: +33-1-30833204 Fax: +33-1-30833195 bertheau@versailles.inra.fr
Philipp P.	Laboratoire Interrégional de la Direction Générale de la Concurrence Consommation et Répression des Fraudes de Strasbourg Chemin du Routoir F-67400 Illkirch Graffenstaden	France	Tel.: +33-3-88664896 Fax: +33-3-88671832 patrick.philipp@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr
Argyropoulos D.	National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF) 19 Aigialeias Str. GR-15125 Athens	Greece	Tel.: +30-1-6840333 Fax: +30-1-6846700 argydim@hotmail.com
Bardounioti M.	National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF) 19 Aigialeias Str. GR-15125 Athens	Greece	Tel.: +30-1-6840333 Fax: +30-1-6846700 agrobionet@nagref.gr
Papatuanassiou A.	General Chemical State Laboratory An. Tsocha st. 16 GR-11523 Athens	Greece	Tel.: +30-1-6479447 Fax: +30-1-6465123 gxx.foodiv@ath.forthnet.gr
Hayes D.	State Laboratory Abbotstown IRL-Dublin 15	Ireland	Tel.: +353-1- 8025871 Fax: +353-1- 8217320 dhayes@statelab.ie

Mac Mahon F.	Food Safety Authority of Ireland Abbey Court, hwr Abbey St. IRL-Dublin 1	Ireland	Tel.: +353-1- 8171300 Fax: +353-1- 8171301 fmacmahon@fsai.ie
Murray B.	Environmental Protection Agency P.O Box 3000 Johnstown Castle Estate IRL-Co. Wexford	Ireland	Tel.: +353-53-60600 Fax: +353-53-60699 b.murray@epa.ie
Ciabatti I.M.	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Lazio e Toscana Via Appia Nuova, 1411 I-00178 Roma	Italy	Tel.: +39-06- 79099449 Fax: +39-06- 79340724 biotecnologie@rm.izs.it
Lena R.	Ministero della Sanità Dipartimento alimenti, nutrizione e sanità pubblica veterinaria P.zza Marconi, 25 I-00144 Roma	Italy	Tel.: +39-06-59943621 Fax: +39-06-59943676 r.lena@sanita.it
Miraglia M.	ISS-Laboratorio di chimica dei cereali V.le Regina Elena, 299 I-00161 Roma	Italy	Tel.: +39-06- 49902367 Fax: +39-06- 49902377 miraglia@iss.it
Bruch M.	Ministry of Health Allée Marconi L-2120 Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Tel.: +352-4785591 Fax: +352-26200149 marcel.bruch@ms.etat.lu
Moris G.	Laboratoire National de Santé Division du Contrôle des Denrées Alimentaires 1A, Rue Auguste Lumière L-1950 Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Tel.: +352-4911911 Fax: +352-494258 laboalim@pt.lu
Laurensse E.	Inspectie Waren en Veterinaire Zaken Regio Noord-West Signaleringsafdeling Primaire Land- en Tuinbouwproducten Hoogte Kadijk 401 NL-1081 BK Amsterdam	Netherlands	Tel.: +31-20-5244600 Fax: +31-20-5244700 emile.laurensse@inspectwv.nl
Holst-Jensen A.	National Veterinary Institute Ullevaalsveien 68 P.O. Box 8156 DEP N-0033 Oslo	Norway	Tel.: +47-22-597473 Fax: +47-22-597475 arne.holst-jensen@vetinst.no
Lillehaug D.	Norwegian Food Control Authority P.O. Box 8187 DEP N-0034 Oslo	Norway	Tel.: +47-22-246995 Fax: +47-22-246699 dag.lillehaug@snt.no

Barreto Crespo M.T.	IBET-Instituto de Biologia Experimental e Tecnológica Apartado 12 Av. Republica P-2781 901 Oeiras	Portugal	Tel.: +351-21-4427787 Fax: +351-21- 4421161 tcrespo@itqb.unl.pt
Matos J. A.	INETI-Instituto Nacional de Engenharia e Tecnologia Industrial Estrada do Paço do Lumiar, 22 Edifício F P-1649 038 Lisboa	Portugal	Tel.: +351-21-7162712 Fax: +351-21- 7163636 jose.matos@mail.ineti.pt
Gallego J.	INIA-Dpto. Mejora Genética y Biotecnología Ctra A-6 Km 7,5 E-28011 Madrid	Spain	Tel.: +34-91-3476889 Fax: +34-91-3573107 fgallego@inia.es
Leyva Tejada A.	Centro Nacional de Biotecnología Campus de la UAM Cantoblanco E-28049 Madrid	Spain	Tel.: +34-91-5854504 Fax: +34-91-5854506 aleyva@cnb.uam.es
Ortiz A.I.	Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo-I.S.C. III Ctrd. Majadahonda-Pozuelo Km 2 E-28220 Majadahonda Madrid	Spain	Tel.: +34-91-5097041 Fax: +34-91-5097932 aiortiz@isciii.es
Foldal S.	National Food Administration P.O. Box 622 S-751 26 Uppsala	Sweden	Tel.: +46-18-175500 Fax: +46-18-105848 svfo@slv.se
Malmheden-Yman I.	National Food Administration P.O. Box 622 S-751 26 Uppsala	Sweden	Tel.: +46-18-175682 Fax: +46-18-105848 iyma@slv.se
Sandberg M.	National Food Administration P.O. Box 622 S-751 26 Uppsala	Sweden	Tel.: +46-18-175736 Fax: +46-18-105848 masa@slv.se
Howell M.	Food Standard Agency Room 580D 80, Skipton House UK-London SE1 6XZ	United Kingdom	Tel.: +44-20-79726507 Fax: +44-20-7926555 mary.howell@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Johnson M.-L.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Central Science Laboratory Sand Hutton UK-York YO41 1LZ	United Kingdom	Tel.: +44-19-04462648 Fax: +44-19-04462111 ml.johnson@csf.gov.uk

André-Schoboboda D.	EC DG SANCO Rue de la Loi, 86 1/41 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2962315 Fax: +32-2-2963615 dorothee.andre-schoboboda@cec.eu.int
Bennink D.	EC DG RECH Rue de la Loi, 200 M075 3/19 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2959183 Fax: +32-2-2958072 dyanne.bennink@cec.eu.int
Hoffmann H.	EC DG SANCO Rue de la Loi, 200 F101 8/66 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2953960 Fax: +32-2-2960951 heidi.hoffmann@cec.eu.int
Klepsch A.	EC DG SANCO Rue de la Loi, 200 F101 8/70 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2953210 Fax: +32-2-2960951 andreas.klepsch@cec.eu.int
Norstedt I.	EC DG JRC Rue de la Loi, 200 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2969527 Fax: +32-2-2950146 irene.norstedt@cec.eu.int
Pierce C.	EC DG ENV Av. de Beaulieu, 5 B-1160 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2955564 Fax: +32-2-2966233 cecile.pierce@cec.eu.int
Schimmel H.	EC DG JRC IRMM Retieseweg B-2440 Geel	Tel.: +32-14-571720 Fax: +32-14-590406 heinz.schimmel@irmm.jrc.be
Tommey A.	EC DG ENV Av. de Beaulieu, 5 B-1160 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2992482 Fax: +32-2-2966233 andrew.tommey@cec.eu.int
Trapmann S.	EC DG JRC IRMM Retieseweg B-2440 Geel	Tel.: +32-14-571714 Fax: +32-14-590406 trapmann@irmm.jrc.be
Verachtert B.	EC DG RECH SDME 8/09 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2955311 Fax: +32-2-2964322 barend.verachtert@cec.eu.int
Yaqub S.	EC DG RECH SDME 8 B-1049 Brussels	Tel.: +32-2-2993737 Fax: +32-2-2991860 sadiq.yaqub@cec.eu.int
Rodríguez Cerezo E.	EC Food and Veterinary Office Belfield Office Park Beech Hill Road Clonskeagh IRL-Dublin 4	Tel.: +353-1-2064863 Fax: +353-1-2064703 emilio.rodriguez-cerezo@cec.eu.int
Anklam E.	EC DG JRC IHCP-FPU T.P. 260 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-785390 Fax: +39-0332-785930 elke.anklam@jrc.it
Dilger E.	EC DG JRC IHCP-FPU T.P. 361 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-789755 Fax: +39-0332-785483 elisabeth.dilger@jrc.it
Eyquem F.	EC DG JRC IHCP-FPU T.P. 201 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-785839 Fax: +39-0332-785904 fabrice.eyquem@jrc.it

McSweeney F.	EC DG JRC IHCP-Director T.P. 202 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-786249 Fax: +39-0332-789059 finbarr.mcsweeney@jrc.org
Miglierina S.V.	EC DG JRC IHCP-FPU T.P. 361 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-789285 Fax: +39-0332-785483 sabrina.miglierina@jrc.it
Van den Eede G.	EC DG JRC IHCP-FPU T.P. 361 I-21020 Ispra (VA)	Tel.: +39-0332-785239 Fax: +39-0332-785483 guy.van-den-eede@jrc.it