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Please feel free to distribute this 2nd e-Newsletter to other interested parties.

Dear stakeholder,

The CONFIDENCE project team is proud to present the 2nd edition of the CONFIDENCE e-newsletter. In this newsletter you will find recent developments in the CONFIDENCE project and related information in the area of contaminants in food and feed.

If you want to subscribe to CONFIDENCE News, please fill in the registration form on

<http://www.confidence.eu/Stakeholders/registration.php>

Best regards,

Jacob de Jong, RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety

CONFIDENCE coordinator

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In the spotlight



First Annual meeting of the CONFIDENCE project in March 2009

This first annual meeting, hosted by Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), was held on the 5th and 6th of March 2009 in Barcelona.

The Plenary meeting of the Consortium was held on Thursday 5th of March 2009 and was chaired by the Coordinator of the project, Dr. Jacob de Jong. It was attended by more than 45 researchers from all 17 CONFIDENCE partners

[Read more about this meeting](#)

News from the CONFIDENCE project



Developing detection methods for organic pollutants; POPs, PFCs, Pesticides

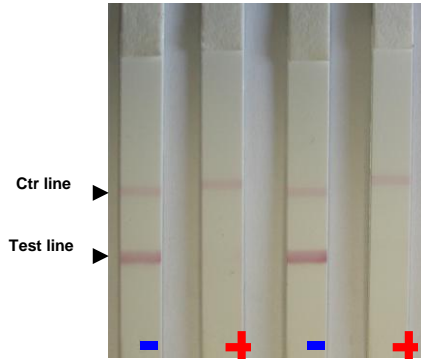
Regarding the POPs, a sensitive Luminex™ based immunoassay to detect benzo[a]pyrene (B[a]P) in buffer has been developed (IC₅₀=0.3ppb) in RIKILT. In the next step, the performance of assay when used for determination of B[a]P in cereal matrices will be tested..

Regarding the PFCs, a simplified and harmonized analytical procedure for the detection and quantification of Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS), perfluoro octane sulfonamide (FOSA), and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in food has been developed.

Regarding the pesticides, fast methods are being developed for two classes of pesticides which are not amenable to multi-residue methods: Paraquat/Diguanat and Dithiocarbamates

[Read more on organic pollutants](#)

Developing detection methods for Veterinary Pharmaceuticals: Coccidiostats, Antibiotics



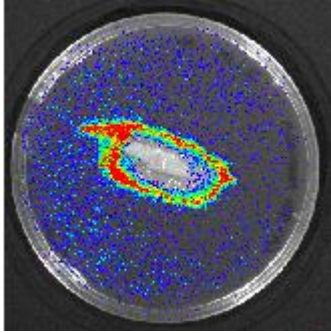
Regarding the coccidiostats, two main tasks were addressed during the first project year, namely the production of all relevant immunochemical reagents (antibodies and conjugates) and the production of egg and feed test materials. The antibodies produced were characterized by ELISA before being tested in beads coupling experiments for the Luminex™ multiplex assays.

Regarding the antibiotics, a range of test materials containing the target antibiotics have been produced for assay development and validation purposes. Based on the current antibiotic usage trends a range of matrix/ analyte combinations have been produced at concentrations close to, and above the EU MRL/MRPL concentrations. During the last 6 months work has been conducted to extend the scope of application for the Tetrasensor® assay. The assay has been modified to detect target tetracycline compounds including both natural and semi-synthetic analogues; tetracycline (TC), doxycycline (DOX), oxytetracycline (OTC) and chlortetracycline (CTC) in animal feeds, urine and cooked meat in accordance with the legislative limits.

[Read more on veterinary pharmaceuticals](#)

Developing detection methods for Heavy Metals

The WP3 focus on the development of speciation alternatives for the determination of inorganic arsenic and methylmercury in food and feed of marine origin. For arsenic the inorganic



forms are the most toxic and for mercury, methylmercury is the most toxic form. Until now the activities in WP3 have been focusing on inorganic arsenic. Two parallel approaches are being pursued:

1. a cytosensor approach using luminescent recombinant bacterial cell biosensors (CYT) and
2. a solid phase extraction approach followed by atomic absorption spectrometry (SPE-AAS).

[Read more on heavy metals](#)

Developing detection methods for Biotoxins: Alkaloids, Marine Biotoxins, Mycotoxins



Algal blooms have increased in frequency, intensity and geographical distribution over the last two decades. These algal blooms have the ability to produce potent toxins that accumulate in aquatic animals in particular filter feeding bivalves such as mussels, clams and scallops which are then consumed by humans and other animals. The research group is developing a multiplex biosensor assay capable of detecting a combination of major marine biotoxins.

[Read more on biotoxins](#)

News from other projects

ANALYSIS OF ESTROGENIC ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS IN FOOD: STATE-OF-THE-ART AND FUTURE TRENDS

09 - 11 Dec 2008



The main objective of this workshop, was to disseminate and demonstrate to the scientific community the various developments and findings gathered on this subject within the BIOCOP integrated project (<http://www.biocop.org>) conducted in the frame of the 6th FP and coordinated by Pf. Chris Elliott (Queen's University, Belfast). This event, also in connection with the CASCADE network of excellence (<http://www.cascadenet.org>), gathered 16 participants from France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Italy, Hungary and Sweden.

[Read more about the workshop...](#)

FEED FOR HEALTH: 1st International workshop

16 - 17 Mar 2009



The new Feed for Health Cost Action (COST Action FA082) of 5 years has been launched 1st December 2008. It aims to create a research network concerned with the role of animal nutrition in improving animal health, the role of animal nutrition in designing functional foods for humans and the development of the concepts of feed safety, feed quality and feed functionality, as counterparts of these ideas as they are currently applied foods for humans. The main task of the network will be to promote the acquisition and facilitate the dissemination of knowledge in these areas and encourage cooperation between various groups working in the area. During the Milan workshop several lectures on the feed and food for health, feed safety, feed supply and consumer concerns and perceptions have been given. The objectives of the Confidence project has also been presented by Dr Vincent Baeten.

[Read more about the project...](#)

News highlights

THE WORLD MYCOTOXIN FORUM – 5th CONFERENCE

17 - 18 Nov 2008



The successful [conference](#) witnessed the continuous and intensive interest of the scientific community for the multi-faceted subject area of mycotoxins. The section on “mycotoxin analysis tools of tomorrow” showed exciting developments, and included presentations about emerging technologies, such as electrochemical immunosensors and transcriptomics, methodologies developed in the FP6 project BioCop (see www.BioCop.org) for the determination of trichothecenes, mycotoxins of particular concern in Europe. From another FP6 project MoniQA (see www.MoniQA.org) some early results were also displayed, i.e. the need for harmonisation of reliable and validated rapid methods for mycotoxin analysis was emphasized. The networking power of the World Mycotoxin Forum[®] has contributed to initiatives to explore the possibilities for inter-project cooperation between BioCop, MoniQA and Confidence in the area of mycotoxins and some other areas as well.

[Read more about the forum...](#)

HOW WERE THE DIOXINS FOUND IN IRISH PRODUCED PIGMEAT?

10 Dec 2008



Irish produced pigmeat has been recently tested positive for the presence of dioxins. It is estimated that approximately 10% of pigmeat from the Republic of Ireland is affected by the current contamination with dioxins. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) discovered the presence of marker PCBs, indicative of dioxin contamination, in pork fat during routine monitoring of the food chain for a range of contaminants. Samples were sent to a laboratory in the UK for further analysis to determine if there were dioxins present. Results have confirmed that dioxins were present in the samples.

[Read more about the news...](#)

CONFIDENCE IN THE NEWS

14 Jan 2009



The project, Confidence, is being lead by the RIKILT Food Safety Institute in the Netherlands and involves 17 partners from ten European countries including leading food multinationals. The project claims Professor Chris Elliott, director of the Institute of Agri-Food and Land Use at Queen's University Belfast, will provide new ways of detecting a wide variety of chemical contaminants such as pesticides, organic pollutants, antibiotics, heavy metals, plant and natural toxins.

[Read more about the news...](#)

RAPID METHODS EUROPE 2009

26 - 28 Jan 2009



The Rapid Methods EUROPE 2009 Conference for Food and Feed Safety and Quality was organized from 26-28 January 2009 in Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. The conference was dedicated to the latest developments in rapid methods and instrumentation. New and cutting-edge technologies were presented for an audience of 160 participants from science and industry. The two main topics were microbiology and chemical contaminants detection. The CONFIDENCE project coordinator, Dr. Jacob de Jong, was invited for a lecture in the plenary starting session of the conference. In this lecture, entitled "Chemical contaminants in food and feed: inexpensive detection for control of exposure (CONFIDENCE, a new European research project)", an overview was presented of the rapid methods that will be developed and validated in CONFIDENCE. During the conference many new contacts were established with representatives from science and industry that are interested to follow the achievements of the project or want to take part in the validation studies.

[Read more about Rapid Methods Europe...](#)

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP RISK-RANKING SYSTEM FOR FOOD SAFETY

19 Feb 2009



The Institute of Food Technologists has collaborated with the US Food and Drug Administration to create risk assessment software to rank different foods in terms of their relative safety. The researchers hope that the use of the risk ranking system could help policy makers and risk managers to evaluate the potential to establish control points on different foods' paths from farm to fork.

[Read publication...](#)

[Read more about the news...](#)

EUROPEAN WINTER CONFERENCE ON PLASMA SPECTROCHEMISTRY

15 - 20 Feb 2009



The 13th European Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry took place in Graz, Austria in February this year with 440 participants from 33 countries. During the conference the latest developments and scientific achievements within plasma spectrochemical analysis using ICPMS and similar techniques for the analysis of trace elements, elemental species and other (bio)molecules containing heteroatom(s) enabling their determination by e.g. ICPMS. The CONFIDENCE project was presented both in an invited plenary lecture as well as a poster.

[Read more about the European Winter Conference](#)

NEWSLETTER LABINFO FOR THE APPROVED FOOD SAFETY LABORATORIES

06 Apr 2009



The purpose of this newsletter is to enhance the regular transfer to the external laboratories of technical and scientific information that is available in the in-house laboratories of the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC-AFSCA-FAVV) as well as in the European and the national reference laboratories. In combination with the communication groups, this electronic newsletter will become the outstanding tool to make important microbiological and analytical knowledge readily available to users.

[Read more about this newsletter...](#)

Upcoming Events

12TH EUCHEMS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMISTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

14 - 17 June 2009



The programme for the conference organised in Stockholm - Sweden is aimed to give broad coverage of science related to chemicals and the environment. The topics will be addressed in a set of separate sessions covering specific chemical issues with an interdisciplinary approach. The programme includes analytical methodology, atmospheric chemistry, sustainable chemistry, inorganic and organic environmental chemistry, chemical environmental toxicology, in-silico tools in chemical risk assessment, chemistry in art and monument conservation.

[Read more about the conference ...](#)

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH SAFETY

14 - 19 June 2009



The programme for the conference organised in Nantes - France covers epidemiology, risk assessment, toxin monitoring, analytical methods for use in microbiology, physico-chemistry and biochemistry, consumer health protection, farming area management, post-harvest treatment, and macro-economic analysis of the repercussions of shellfishfarming crises. Round-tables will be organised to discuss "hot topics".

[Read more about the conference ...](#)

ADVANCED STUDY COURSE VII: OPTICAL CHEMICAL SENSORS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND FOOD SAFETY

26 Aug - 03 Sept 2009



ASCOS (Advanced Study Course on Optical Chemical Sensors) is an ECTS accredited European initiative to establish an education, discussion and contact platform for young researchers working in the strongly growing field of optical chemical sensors, besides the traditional conferences. The next course will be organised in Madrid - Spain.

[Read more about the course...](#)



WORLDWIDE MYCOTOXIN REDUCTION IN FOOD AND FEED CHAINS

09 - 11 Sept 2009

The aim of this conference organised in Tulln/Vienna - Austria is to facilitate discussion and collaboration between scientists, opinion leaders, decision-makers and industry in the specific research area of mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chains.

[Read more about the conference...](#)

46TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF TOXICOLOGY

13 - 16 Sept 2009

The German Toxicology Society (GT) it is a great pleasure to invite you to the 46th Congress of the European Societies of Toxicology in Dresden - Germany. Your participation at the congress implies attending the biggest European toxicology event which is focused on expertise, qualification, innovation and education. You will get in touch with experts, potential business partners and clients as well as the offspring. The EUROTOX scientific programme committee has prepared an attractive scientific programme which covers all important and relevant topics in the field of toxicology.

[Read more about the congress...](#)

3RD INTERNATIONAL FEED SAFETY CONFERENCE - METHODS AND CHALLENGES

06 – 07 Oct 2009

The 3rd International FEED SAFETY Conference will be organised by RIKILT – Institute of Food Safety in Wageningen, The Netherlands in October 2009 in the framework of the SAFEED-PAP project.

[Read more about the feed safety conference...](#)

4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ADVANCES IN FOOD ANALYSIS

04 - 06 Nov 2009

In line with previous events, the RAFA 2009 organised in Prague – Czech Republic will focus on recent advanced analytical & bioanalytical technologies and emerging food related applications in following areas: residues and contaminants, authenticity, traceability, fraud, flavours and odours, processing and packaging contaminants, mycotoxins,



marine and plant toxins, allergens, genetically modified organisms (GMO's), nanoparticles, novel foods, nutritional supplements, organic food.

[Read more about the symposium...](#)

NEW TRENDS IN FOOD ANALYSIS FROM LC MS TECHNOLOGIES TO UPLC

23 - 24 Nov 2009



AOAC Europe and ASFILAB are proud to present you with the most advanced findings in Food Analysis, and have invited key speakers in the field. Amongst the areas covered by the 2009 workshop organised in Paris, some key topics have been selected: vitamins, drug residues, allergens, mycotoxins, and Pesticides.

[Read more about the workshop...](#)

CONffIDENCE FP7 project : www.confidence.eu

For further information contact: coordination@confidence.eu

This work is funded by the European Commission, under the FP7 Food Quality and Safety Priority, within the framework of the Collaborative Project CONffIDENCE – 211326 – entitled “Contaminants in Food and Feed: Inexpensive DEtection for Control of Exposure”. This project is carried out by a consortium coordinated by RIKILT – Institute of Food Safety (NL) and includes 17 partners. The information reflects the authors views, the European Commission is not liable for any use of the information contained therein.

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