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[www.moniqa.org/newsletter](http://www.moniqa.org/newsletter)

## In Perspective

Say "Hello" to the MoniQA Association!

We are delighted to introduce to you the MoniQA Association, the international group of organisations dedicated to collaborative research aimed at promoting a more secure and safer food supply. In this editorial we would like to provide you with an overview of past, present and future activities.

### What happened so far?

The EU-funded MoniQA Network of Excellence (NoE) involves experts from around the globe working for safer foods by harmonising food quality and safety monitoring and control strategies worldwide. Funding ends on 31st January 2012, but some activities will continue through the newly established MoniQA Association, membership of which is open to all organisations with a commitment to food safety and security. In early August 2011, the association was officially incorporated as a non profit association (a so-called "Verein") under Austrian law. Most of the original NoE partners have joined the MoniQA Association and several other organisations have also signed up, bringing membership to around 40 institutions from 18 countries across five continents.

### MoniQA Association – today

The first MoniQA Association General Assembly took place in Varna (BG) on 29th September 2011 where members ratified the First Regular Supervisory Board, which consists of Angelo Visconti (CNR, IT – President), Bert Popping (Eurofins CTC/ Analytik, DE – Vice President), Paul Finglas (IFR, UK), Wolfgang Kneifel (BOKU, AT) and Hans-Peter van Egmond (RIKILT, NL). The Supervisory Board will be supported by Roland Poms as Secretary General and the MoniQA Secretariat, based at ICC in Vienna, Austria. Information about the MoniQA Association and its activities is available at <http://association.moniqa.org> and includes an overview of the Association's structure, its officials and members, FAQs, and important documents (e.g. statutes, prospectus, membership form, codes of business practice).

### We love to hear from you!

This is a pivotal moment in the development of the MoniQA Association as we are currently further developing and refining our planned activities. We would be delighted to hear from you – for instance:

- What do you think the food safety priorities will be in the near future?
- Which training courses or workshops are you most interested in?
- Where should the 4th MoniQA International Conference be hosted?

If you have any questions or you would like to become a member of the MoniQA Association, please send an email to [moniqa@moniqa.org](mailto:moniqa@moniqa.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Dr Angelo Visconti, President of the MoniQA Association

Dr Bert Popping, Vice-President of the MoniQA Association

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# MoniQA

## MoniQA Network of Excellence

### Industry Corner



#### MoniQA Association Activities for Industry

The MoniQA Association offers continuous professional development, building on the successful MoniQA Food Scientists' Training (FST) programme. Association membership ensures you stay informed about regional, national, European and global developments in food safety through, for example, industry-wide knowledge transfer events and MoniQA resources such as the food safety database and the regulatory impact assessment toolbox.

More information: <http://association.moniqua.org/activities/industry>

### Research Frontiers



#### MoniQA Association Activities for Research Organisations

Joining the MoniQA Association provides research organisations with an ideal opportunity to network with peers at conferences and access training, expertise and infrastructure and to establish trans-continental bi- and multi lateral cooperation. Membership offers discounted access to MoniQA events including training, one free subscription to Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops and Foods, one free licence for MoniQA databases and access to rapid methods for food safety and quality analysis and international standards.

More information: <http://association.moniqua.org/activities/research>

### Policy Monitor



#### MoniQA Association Activities for Policy Makers

MoniQA Association is helping to achieving better regulations through its socio-economic toolbox, which predicts the impact of amended or new regulations at a variety of levels. MoniQA can offer information about case studies, to assess socio-economic impact of regulation and food hazards, and offer input for expert summits and events. The association will also contribute to international standards through a variety of European and Global fora.

More information: [http://association.moniqua.org/activities/policy\\_makers](http://association.moniqua.org/activities/policy_makers)

### Food Safety Web Spotlight / Consumer Corner



#### MoniQA Association Activities for Consumers

MoniQA Association recognises that dialogue with the public is much needed. Publicly-accessible information about MoniQA and its activities is available online and MoniQA regularly participates in public events such as the British Science Festival and the European Science Open Forum. The MoniQA Association will continue these activities and to provide consumer with information about food safety and quality in an easy-to-understand fashion.

More information: <http://association.moniqua.org/activities/consumers>



# Events



The 3rd MoniQA International Conference (September 27-29, Varna, BG) brought together more than 150 delegates from around the globe to discuss food safety issues and their impact on the consumer. The conference featured a wide array of speakers from food safety researchers, socio-economists, regulators, representatives from food industry and retail as well as consumer representatives from around the globe. Poster prizes were awarded to: (1st) Sine Yener (HCTU, TR), (2nd) Dorota Piasecka-Kwiatkowska (NFNI, PL) and (3rd) Chen Jinyao (SCU, CN). The conference also hosted the official launch event of the MoniQA Association. Pictures and power point presentations can be downloaded from <http://varna2011.moniqa.org> and an official press release is available at [http://association.moniqa.org/press\\_varna\\_launch](http://association.moniqa.org/press_varna_launch)



## Related Events include:

- 1st ICC India Conference – Developments in grain science and technology to ensure high quality, safe and healthy grain-based food, 16-18th January 2012, New Delhi, India
- 19th European Congress on Obesity, 9-12th May, 2012, Lyon, France
- 6th Central European Congress on Food, 23rd-26th May 2012, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia
- 14th ICC Cereal and Bread Congress, 6-9th August 2012 Beijing, China
- 16th IUFosT World Congress of Food Science and Technology, 19th-23rd August 2012, Salvador, Brazil
- WMF meets IUPAC, 5-9th November 2012, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

## Ask MoniQA



### How is the MoniQA Association structured and how can I join?

In the first instance, day-to-day management of the MoniQA Association will be outsourced to ICC, the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology. Strategic business decisions will be the responsibility of the elected Supervisory Board whilst the scientific direction will be guided by a separate Scientific Advisory Committee. The General Assembly is ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with the statutes and holding both the Supervisory Board and Secretary General to account with regards to achieving scientifically appropriate goals in financially prudent manner. MoniQA applies a best practice ethics code of conduct.

To join go to <http://association.moniqa.org/membership/signup> and download the application form. Membership fee is currently €1 000 per year.

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# About MoniQA

MoniQA (Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the Food Supply Chain) is funded by the European Union. It is a Network of Excellence aiming to make food safer by harmonising worldwide food quality and safety monitoring and control strategies.

- MoniQA focuses on validation of and setting performance criteria/requirements for methods used to analyse foods and food products for safety and quality with the main focus being on rapid methods and their applicability and reliability in routine
- MoniQA seeks to establish long-lasting cooperation amongst leading research institutes, industrial partners and the small- and medium-sized businesses in food and retail in order to ensure food quality and safety for consumers.
- Researchers from around the world have been involved right from the start in 2007 and the network is constantly growing.
- In the long-term the MoniQA consortium hopes that the project will form the basis of a sustainable global net work of food safety and quality experts. The project is coordinated by ICC.



## Disclaimer

This newsletter is published by the MoniQA consortium. Every effort has been made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print but no liability will be accepted for losses caused by inaccurate information.

## Map / Members



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