



PRESS RELEASE

MoniQA: global networking for improved food safety

(Vienna, 01/01/2008) **Funded by the European Union, the MoniQA project establishes long-lasting cooperation among leading food research institutions, food and biotech industries, as well as small- and medium-sized businesses to ensure food quality and safety for consumers.**

Globalized trade in food means more choice for consumers and benefits for the economy but at the same time it may also threaten human health if stringent safety checks are not implemented. It is therefore vital that food quality and safety methods and standards are harmonized on a global level. The European Union is addressing this challenge through MoniQA (**Monitoring and Quality Assurance in the Food Supply Chain**), which is funded by the EU's Sixth Framework Programme on Research and Development (FP6).

MoniQA brings together global expertise in analytical methods and technologies for food quality and safety from 33 international organizations in 20 countries. Members are coordinating their research as well as sharing personnel and infrastructures. By creating a virtual laboratory for research, establishing joint training and mobility programs, and sharing knowledge, MoniQA will help to ensure food safety and quality in Europe and beyond. MoniQA will thus benefit the food industry – including SMEs – as well as policy makers and, ultimately, the European consumer.

MoniQA started on 1st February 2007, and its kick-off meeting (20-22 March 2007, Vienna) was attended by 65 delegates from 22 countries.

MoniQA in a nutshell:

- Over 155 scientists from 20 countries
- Harmonising global food quality and safety monitoring
- Adding value to the food chain to ensure consumer confidence
- Ensuring effective and efficient food quality and safety regulations within the EU and worldwide

For further information please take a look at the MoniQA website (www.moniqa.org) or contact:

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