



## PRESS RELEASE

### MoniQA Food Safety Project Celebrates First Birthday and Scores High in Evaluation

(Vienna, 02/06/2008) **MoniQA – an EU funded project connecting key global players in the field of food safety and quality - has successfully completed its first year of operations and has achieved high scores in its evaluation.**

The EU funded project MoniQA (**M**onitoring and **Q**uality **A**ssurance in the Food Supply Chain) has successfully completed its first period of operation. The first Annual Consortium Meeting brought together 81 delegates from 21 countries in Athens, Greece (February 11-14, 2008). In April 2008 the project was reviewed by independent experts on behalf of the European Commission. The experts concluded that the project has fully achieved its objectives and technical goals for the period and has even exceeded expectations. Out of 27 evaluation items MoniQA was marked “good/excellent” in 22 cases, “partially achieved” in 5 cases and received no negative score for any item. Comments and suggestions for improvement were expressed by the evaluators and the workplan was amended accordingly.

MoniQA brings together global expertise in analytical methods and technologies for food quality and safety from 33 international organizations in 20 countries. The project is coordinated by the ICC, the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology which is based in Vienna, Austria. ICC Secretary General Roland Poms says: “For me coordinating a project as large as MoniQA is a professional challenge and at the same time a great personal experience. I am very happy that we have made considerable progress in our first year”.

Following up from the first Annual Consortium Meeting the ten MoniQA working groups are investigating key issues in food quality and safety. They are now also open to participation by external stakeholders. The working groups cover issues such as: Mycotoxins/Phycotoxins, Chemical Contaminants, Food Allergens, Food Authenticity, Food Additives, Microbiological Contaminants and Qualitative Method Validation. These working groups are currently elaborating position papers which will be key documents for drafting Harmonisation Guidelines for Analytical Methods in MoniQA.

#### **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](http://www.moniqa.org)) or contact:**

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