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|  | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  **CONSUMERS HEALTH AND FOOD EXECUTIVE AGENCY**  Organisation and implementation of training activities on strengthening Member States' response to Union audits under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative |

Invitation to attend BTSF Workshop

NEW AND EMERGING RISKS TO PLANT HEALTH AND SURVEILLANCE

To be held at THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Grange, Ireland

on 5 TO 7 jUly 2016

Dear Chief Plant Health Officer

As mentioned at the COPHS meeting on 2 May, the Commission has been carrying out a project on "*Responses to New and emerging risks to plant health, and surveillance*". The objective of the project is to identify current practices and critical points relating to the identification of new and emerging risks and the response to such risks, and to identify how future responses to such risks may be enhanced.

The project started with a questionnaire, which was sent to all Member States in November 2013, and was followed by a series of fact finding missions carried out in 6 Member States in 2014 and 2015[[1]](#footnote-1). The Commission is currently preparing a draft overview report summarising the key elements of the replies to the questionnaire and the findings and conclusions of the mission series.

The next phase of the project is a workshop, which will be held at the European Commission's Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis, Grange, Dunsany, County Meath, Ireland from Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 July 2016.

The objective of the workshop is to bring together representatives from Member States and Switzerland, as well as experts from EPPO, EFSA and the Commission, to review the results of the project to date, and to discuss weaknesses and possible means of enhancing the identification and response to new and emerging risks to plant health, including surveillance.

The conclusions of the workshop will be included in the final overview report.

***Nomination of participant***

The tentative programme for the workshop is attached. It is aimed at Member States and Switzerland. The target audience is persons who have a policy or managerial role related to the topic. The workshop is not aimed at trainers or inspectors.

You are invited to nominate an expert to attend the workshop. The person you nominate should register **as soon as possible** directly with the contractor by **Friday 24 June at the very latest.**

The Workshop includes a session for informal presentation on raising awareness of new risks to plant health on the morning of the last day (Point (e)). You are invited to bring any examples of publicity material that your services have issued (e.g. posters and leaflets) for presentation or display during this session.

The workshop is being organised by Tipik Communication on behalf of CHAFEA under the European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative.

The Agency will bear the costs of travel to your home country airport / train station to Grange and your accommodation.

**Pre-conditions for high impact of the training**

1. The format of the workshop is designed to encourage participation, peer group discussions and sharing of ideas. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences in the workshop and Break-out/ Discussion Groups.
2. The workshop will consist of a combination of presentations by Commission officials, Member States and relevant external speakers including EPPO and EFSA, as well as discussions between participants, aimed at identifying ways and means of enhancing the identification of, and responses to, new and emerging risks to plant health.
3. Commission officials will also provide presentations on emergency preparedness and responses to new and emerging risks to for animal health.
4. Participants should be in a position to ensure that the conclusion of the project are disseminated, and where appropriate, implemented. Dissemination methods will be addressed in group discussions and follow-up support will be provided.
5. Please note that the workshop will be conducted in English and interpretation will not be available.
6. Information packages will be forwarded to participants at least one week before the workshop.

**Timing**

The workshop will start on Tuesday afternoon, 5 July 2016 and end afternoon of Thursday 7 July 2016.

Depending on flight schedules, the aim is that most participants will travel to Grange, Ireland on Tuesday 5 July 2016 and return home on Thursday 7 July 2016. However, for those for whom it is not possible to arrange suitable flights, they may arrive on Monday 4 July and/or depart on Friday 8 July 2016 instead.

**Social events**

There will be a dinner for participants in the hotel on the first evening.

A dinner will also be held on the second evening, followed by a social event.

**Logistical arrangements**

Tipik has been appointed to organise the event and make logistical arrangements.

The following participant costs will be paid by the European Commission:

1. Economy class (or equivalent) flights from the nearest convenient airport to Dublin or first-class train or bus travel as appropriate; transfer from and to Dublin airport to the hotel; transfers from the hotel to the Commission office and any visit locations.
2. Full board accommodation including room, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
3. Refreshments during morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

**Travel**

You will receive only ONE flight proposal to be approved within 24 hours. You cannot, in all the cases, change the proposal the agency will send you as all the delegates should travel in the same conditions.

After approval, an electronic ticket will be issued by the travel agency and sent to you by email. You will have to print it, check that it is correct and present it at the check-in desk at the airport on the day of travel.

Please note the following important details:

* You will be offered to travel in the morning of Tuesday 05/07 to arrive on time for the event. Depending on your departure city, you will be proposed a departure flight on Monday 04/07 ONLY if no flight enables you to arrive on time for the meeting on Tuesday.
* For the return flight, you will travel on Thursday 07/07 just after the event. Depending on your return city, we will offer you a departure flight on Friday 08/07 ONLY if no flight enables you to stay until the end of the meeting

**Hotel**

Accommodation will be provided at the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, a short journey from the European Commission premises.

1. BE, FR, DE, UK, HU, NL [↑](#footnote-ref-1)