

Dioxin conference 2002, Barcelona, August 11-16, 2002

With about 800 participants from 33 countries, the 22nd International Symposium on Halogenated Environmental Organic Pollutants and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) took place in Barcelona. GfA and AERIA were represented for the first time under their new logos: Eurofins/GfA and Eurofins/AERIA with a total of 5 publications in the fields of emissions, ambient air and special investigations.

Dr. Stephan Hamm, head of GfA's Special Investigations Department, gave a well-appreciated lecture in the section 'Food and Feed safety and quality' demonstrating yet again GfA's competence in dioxin analyses in general and in food and human samples in particular.

At this event, the topic 'dioxins in food and feed' is gaining more and more attention. Several sessions exclusively addressed this problem in detailed series of lectures. The classic dioxin analysis using high-resolution GC/MS is indisputably state of the art. Here, however, the BioAssay method as pre-screening is on its way to a general acceptance, as well with regard to the stipulations of the European Union.

Fortunately it is nevertheless still possible to regard the topic with a wink: some Australian colleagues had examined 30-year-old butter for dioxins and furans (...one wonders where they had found this butter !) and found values comparable to those of today. By the way, nothing was said about a possible offensive smell...

The more or less 500 presentations of this year's Dioxin Conference fill about 2,500 pages of the 'Organohalogen Compounds edition', which appears simultaneously. Apart from the intersection regarding foodstuff analytics in the sections 'Environmental Levels' and 'Human Exposure' as well as 'Toxicology', the section "Food and Feed I + II" alone fills 200 pages.

Next year, the Dioxin Conference will take place in Boston, USA and in 2004 there will be a 'home match' in Berlin ●

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1 Organohalogen Compounds, Volumes 55-59, eds. J. Rivera, J. J. Llerena & E. Abad, 2002.



News in brief...



AGROGENE who recently joined the Eurofins group, are organising an annual seminar on the latest scientific developments in Applied Genetics.

On February 27 and 28, 2003, the XIth seminar to be held in Paris will focus on the development and application of new genotyping technologies applicable to molecular medicine, plant breeding and the identification and traceability of plant and animal products. 20 international renowned speakers will be invited to present Technology, Applications & Perspectives of High Throughput Genotyping.

This event will be an excellent opportunity to gain information on the latest developments and to meet professionals.

Official language : English.

More information on:

<http://www.agrogene.com/Seminar> or
contact Vincent Wickaert,
Phone 00 33 1 64 13 31 80



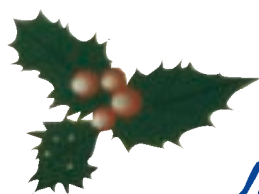
European Commission Sixth Framework Programme 2002-2006

From November 11 to 13, in a large conference attracting over 8000 participants, the European Commission formally launched the 6th Framework Programme. Its primary mission is to establish a European Research Area and provide the tools that will structure and integrate scientific research in Europe from 2002 to 2006.

Although the first calls for proposals are not expected until mid-December, from the speeches at the conference it is likely that the priorities in the Food Quality and Safety sector will include traceability of food products, and improved methods of detection of contaminants.

For more information you can read the content of the speeches on:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/resources_en.html
or contact : MicheleLees@eurofins.com



Best wishes
for the New Year!



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Erratum

We apologize for an editorial error in our article on the offer of Eurofins Analytico for wine analysis (NL in n°10). Regarding the regulations on ochratoxin, the text should have been : 'Proposals have been made by the EU to set a limit of 1 or 2 ppb of ochratoxin A in Wine'.

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