

## Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001 : "Message from the CEO"



Dear Readers,

This autumn brings some very interesting events and news. Firstly as you may have heard from our staff and the media, the EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC Group has further expanded. This development will be an

advantage for you, as the new members of our group expand and complete our portfolio of analytical services. Medigenomix in Germany for example offers a wide range of high throughput DNA analysis services, which are outstanding tools for cost effective DNA genotyping and traceability of animals. Analytico in the Netherlands, a new member since

April 2001, offers analytical services for the food and pharma industries, especially as part of clinical trials. Analytico also widens our geographical reach. I am pleased to announce that, beyond our first class quality, the completeness of our portfolio of assays makes us the service provider of choice for the industries we serve. We are working hard on trying to cover your entire analytical needs at the highest scientific level.

Let me also emphasise the need to remain vigilant as regards GMOs. While no proven health risks exists, GMOs are getting increasingly media and consumer attention worldwide. In July in the USA, for the first time humans ate pork meat from transgenic animals, though by mistake. This meat was not supposed to reach the food chain. In Japan, thousands of packets of potato chips had to be recalled, due to contamination with non-approved

genetically modified potatoes. At the same time the EU Commission is moving forward with labelling and approval guidelines of GMO food and feed products. It is obvious that laws and trade in transgenic food are becoming more complex every day. We at EUROFINS are on the pulse of this development and are making every effort to provide you with up-to-date advice and to help you protect your product quality with fast and top quality analysis.

Last but not least, the upcoming FASIS conference is the 6<sup>th</sup> symposium of its kind ; we are committed to be a driving force in satisfying the increasing need for research and information in the field of food authenticity and safety. I look forward meeting you personally at this event in Nantes ●

*Dr Gilles Martin*  
CEO



## 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Food Authenticity and Safety, *don't miss this event !*

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> this year, Eurofins Scientific will organise the 2001 Symposium at the Cité des Congrès in Nantes. Since 1991, this colloquium allows experts from different countries to present the latest developments and creates a forum rich in exchanges between scientists, industrialists, retailers and professionals specialised in the analysis of food.

This year, for the first time, food safety will be included in the Symposium programme. In the light of events that have, regrettably, placed food safety at the centre of consumer concerns, and with the benefits of Eurofins Scientific's growing expert network, this is an ideal opportunity to expand this well-established authenticity symposium. As shown by the issues for example of GMO and BSE, authenticity and safety are often closely linked and both necessitate the same rigorous care in establishing control and traceability programmes. Whilst

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November will essentially be dedicated to food safety, the whole symposium will provide a state-of-the-knowledge update on the concerns of consumers, industrialists and analysts.

The capability to inform and convince consumers of the quality and origin of the products offered will be a key success factor in the food industry of the near future. In this context, it is essential to have a comprehensive knowledge of the array of analytical tools available as well as insight into the approach to quality control of international business partners. FASIS (Food Authenticity and Safety International Symposium) aims to present an overview on these issues every two years.

Moreover, since its conception, the wealth and success of the Symposium lies in the quality of exchanges between participants directly concerned by these questions

and in a position to make decisions to guarantee the maximum level of food security. We are positive that the participants, as observed during the previous Symposia, will enjoy the conviviality and appreciate establishing relationships to debate and reflect upon questions of authenticity and safety far beyond this Symposium ●

*Sabine Noster-Vallée*

**Registration is still possible :**

**Comité d'Organisation FASIS**

**Tel : (+33) 02 51 83 21 08 Fax : (+33) 02 51 83 21 11**

**Internet site : [www.eurofins-fasis.com](http://www.eurofins-fasis.com)**

**E-mail : [fasis@eurofins.com](mailto:fasis@eurofins.com)**

*If you are involved at all  
in the food trade,  
this concerns you !*

### In this issue

**EDITORIAL ■ 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOOD AUTHENTICITY AND SAFETY ■ BSE DETECTION BY RAPID TESTING ■ SPECIAL TESTING OF GLOVES AGAINST CHEMICALS ■ MEET 3 NEW LABORATORIES OF THE EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC GROUP ■ NEWS IN BRIEF... ■ FOOD QUALITY MONITORING : THE VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL FRENCH BISCUIT AND BISCOTTE ASSOCIATIONS**

---

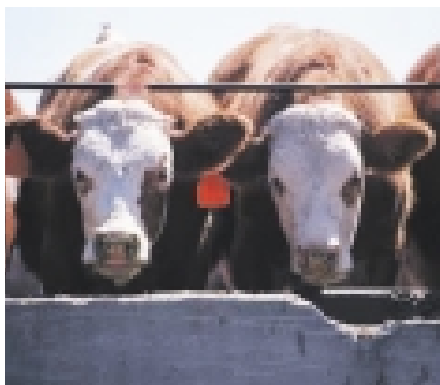
---

## BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) detection by rapid testing

Since January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001 in France and July 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 in the whole European Union, cattle of over 30 months must undergo a BSE detection test before entering the food chain. Since July 25<sup>th</sup>, France has also tested cattle slaughtered between 24 and 30 months.

3 tests are accredited in Europe : Prionics (Western Blot), Bio-Rad (ELISA) and Enfer (ELISA), although the latter is not authorised in France.

The analysis is carried out on a part of the obex (cerebral trunk) and enables the veterinary services to stop the detention of carcasses. The meat, as well as other by-products (suet, blood, etc.) can then enter the food chain. All products from cattle whose test result is positive, from animals that have not been tested (sample that is difficult or impossible to analyse) or those classified as high-risk, are destroyed.



Since the end of the year 2000, Eurofins Scientific has set up a network of laboratories in Europe that specialise in BSE testing ; 10 laboratories are currently operational. The Garching laboratory near Munich was the first lab of the group to offer this service from November 2000.

In France, the laboratory dedicated to this activity is situated in Nantes, ideally placed at the heart of the first French area for cattle breeding and slaughtering. It has had official government approval since March 5<sup>th</sup> 2001 and carries out an average of 500 tests per day.

In Denmark, Eurofins Scientific is the only lab, among all the accredited laboratories, to offer the Western Blot method.

In addition to this post-mortem BSE detection activity, Eurofins Scientific's research and development teams are also engaged in active comparison of the different kits available on the market and are investigating the potential of future in vivo diagnostic tests ●

*Xavier Guilbert,  
BSE Business Unit Manager  
Contact : [XavierGuilbert@eurofins.com](mailto:XavierGuilbert@eurofins.com)*

---

---

## Special Testing of Gloves Against Chemicals

Skin disease is one of the most frequent occupational diseases - often caused by chemical exposure. Protective gloves against chemicals may reduce the risk of skin diseases considerably.

Unfortunately, no universal glove is suitable for all chemicals or industrial products. Selection of the proper protective glove must be based on sound information. Data provided by glove manufacturers, in safety data sheets, in data bases, and in published tables are very often not sufficient. Main reasons for this are elevated temperature inside the glove due to body heat and stretching of material due to bending of fingers. Accordingly the result is false safety and high skin exposure to hazardous chemicals.

MILJØ-KEMI offers a special test of protective gloves - not only for chemicals but also for all specified, relevant products you may use in your production. We have defined a specific test protocol, which considers the actual usage pattern both against volatile and non-volatile hazardous substances. During the test procedure a defined section of the glove is stretched up in a testing cell simulating real-life conditions - e.g. 35°C and stret-



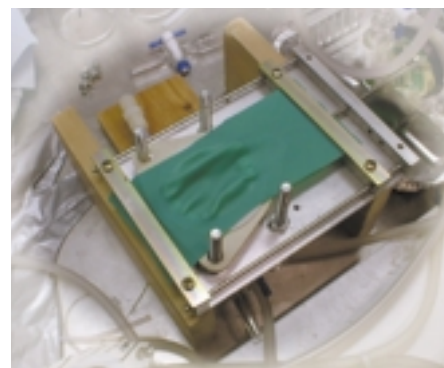
ching of 20%. The specified substance is added to the surface of the glove, and the penetration through the material is sampled and analysed.

The test results are presented in a report, which is easy to read and to use – stating

which glove can be used and for how long the glove will be protective.

MILJØ-KEMI participates in the development of a simple-to-use system to estimate the risks of skin exposure at workplaces. This system will be available in 2002 and will help improve the selection of proper control actions and to reduce the frequency of occupational skin disease. This activity is part of a major project on dermal exposure funded by the European Commission and national authorities ●

*Reinhard Oppl  
René Fuhlendorff  
Contact : [rf@miljo-kemi.com](mailto:rf@miljo-kemi.com)*



# Meet 3 new laboratories of the Eurofins Scientific group :

Eurofins Scientific is today a group of more than 50 laboratories located in Europe and North America. Let us introduce the skills of 3 recent additions to the group.

## ATS specialist in the control, selection and development of non food products (France)

ATS Laboratory, based in Aix-en-Provence, provides independent validation of the regulatory compliance of products such as cosmetics and toiletries, detergents and paper hygiene products.

Its main strength consists in being able to provide its customers with a full range of services and, in addition to physicochemical determinations, a portfolio of determinations centred on perceived quality and on the determination of product efficiency. It completes this range with consumer tests and legal/regulatory assistance.

A team of 6 engineers carries out audits, provides technical advice and is responsible for the interpretation of results and delivering study reports.

The major European retailers have always been among ATS' main customers, using the laboratory's services for the management and development of private label and low price products.



European consumer associations also entrust ATS with comparative studies and appreciate its know-how.

ATS is an international laboratory, and thanks to its technical skills, accounts for more than 20% of its export turnover in Germany, southern Europe and in the Benelux countries.

All the services of ATS obtained ISO 9001 certification in 1998 ●

*Sabine Maraninchi*

Contact : [SabineMaraninchi@eurofins.com](mailto:SabineMaraninchi@eurofins.com)



## MEDIGENOMIX, leader in DNA analyses (Germany)

MEDIGENOMIX GmbH was founded in May 1998 as a spin-off from Medigene AG aiming at becoming one of the leading service-companies for DNA analysis. The department of DNA sequence analysis successfully operates since 1995 and was expanded and supplemented by several divisions of Applied Genetics. In May 2001 Eurofins Scientific acquired the majority shareholding of our company and additionally guarantees an enormous potential for the marketing of these new services.

DNA sequencing upon request from customers from academic, private and industrial laboratories worldwide remains one of our main focuses. Starting at the genetic department of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, MEDIGENOMIX can draw upon 10 years of experience in this business field. On this basis we can reliably cover every analytical need within this market, providing results of highest quality. MEDIGENOMIX is taking part in the German Human Genome Project, for instance. Additionally, a bioinformatic service is offered for automatic databank searches and automatic annotation of DNA sequences (ConSequence™).

Expanding our services in the field of Applied Genetics we specialized in genotyping for animal breeding and plant growing, forensics and paternity testing as well as food-analysis. Microsatellite systems, DNA-sequences varying in length and located in non-coding regions of the genome, serve as genetic markers to make out genetic fingerprints for a variety of applications: identification of persons and animals for forensic purposes, paternity testing, providing the origin of animals and plants, the choice of suitable individuals for breeding-programmes, classification of the genetic variety within populations. In the business field of veterinary medical diagnostics we focus on detection of gene defects and QTLs with cattle, horse and swine (e.g. BLAD, SCID, MHS) as well as pathogens such as Pasteurella and Borrelia. A new service is our risk profiling for scrapie in sheep.

Further applications of high relevance are SNP-Genotyping for studies of the toleration of medicine in the new fields

Pharmacogenomics and Genetic-Risk-Profiling. According to the type of project we can draw upon different technologies of SNP-analysis.

Other important techniques of analysis are quantifications of DNA/RNA as well as rapid sequence detection and allelic discrimination by real-time PCR detection. These procedures are used for the fast and highly specific detection of genetic modifications, eg. in laboratory animals or in food production (GMO) ●

*Dr. Engelbert Precht.*

Infos at <http://www.medigenomix.de>

## EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC TESTS CENTER : a new Business Unit, dedicated to consumer testing (France)

The partnership between Eurofins Scientific and the "sensory analyses" activity of QUALITE FRANCE comes to complete the offer and the competence of the group in this field. Located in Paris, this laboratory is one of the few laboratories to be accredited by the COFRAC<sup>1</sup> for carrying out descriptive tests (Programme 133).

In France, EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC TESTS CENTER currently has 4 sites, two of which are in Paris and in its suburbs. The EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC network of laboratories located in most European countries, enables manufacturers to measure consumer acceptance of their products in the countries that they have targeted for commercial development. Our scientific teams offer their customers various services : consumer tests carried out in the laboratory or at home, in Paris or in the French provinces, by adults or children, on food and non-food products, descriptive tests, training for the setting up of panels...., associated to high study capacities (76 standardised cubicles in France, more than 5 000 naive consumers and several panels of qualified and trained tasters).

EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC TESTS CENTER is now a major competitor on the consumer testing market and will continue its expansion both in France and in Europe in the next few months ●

1- Comité Français d'Accréditation

*Jean-Marc Le Gall*

Contact : [JeanMarcLeGall@eurofins.com](mailto:JeanMarcLeGall@eurofins.com)

## News in brief...

### Isotopic methods given a place of honour in Yokohama (Japan)...

The 1st International Congress on Stable Isotopes took place last July. Professor Gérard Martin, as a member of the scientific committee, represented Eurofins Scientific.

### ... and in Sydney (Australia) as well

Sydney is the place chosen by the International Federation of the Fruit Juice Industry (IFJI) for its next general meeting which will take place in November. On that occasion, Dr Eric Jamin will present the latest developments on isotopic methods for fruit juice authenticity testing.

### Wiertz Eggert Jörissen, exhibitor at the ANUGA in Cologne (Germany) – October 2001:

Many European manufacturers, both visitors and exhibitors during the last ANUGA exhibition appreciated the opportunity to meet and exchange with Wiertz Eggert Jörissen – Eurofins Scientific managers.

### Partnership between the French Federation of Fruit and Vegetables importers and Eurofins Scientific :

The French Federation of Fruit and Vegetables Importers (CSIF – Chambre Syndicale des Importateurs Français de Fruits et Légumes) has put in place a monitoring scheme for the quality of imported fruits and vegetables. Eurofins Scientific is one of the CSIF partner laboratories for pesticides residues, additives and contaminants analyses.

### EUROLABEL (France) and RUDDOCK & SHERRATT (Great-Britain) join the Eurofins Scientific network :

Located in Martillac, in the Bordeaux region of France, EUROLABEL offers a full range of ISO 17025 accredited physico-chemical and microbiological analyses dedicated to the food industry. Many prestigious châteaux from the Bordeaux area appeal to the analytical competence and consultancy of EUROLABEL in oenology.

Ruddock and Sherratt's premises at Chester will provide another location for Eurofins Scientific in the UK, taking the total to six Eurofins laboratories with nationwide coverage.

## Food quality monitoring : the voluntary activities of the National French Biscuit Factory and Biscotte Associations

Since 1986, *le Syndicat National de la Biscuiterie Française (SNBF – National Biscuit Association)* and *le Syndicat National de la Biscotterie et de la Panification Fine (SNBPF – National Biscotte and Fine Bread-Making Association)* have put in place a food monitoring scheme. It is an annual plan designed to evaluate the presence of some contaminants (chemical, physical and microbiological) in raw materials and finished goods for the cereal industry (flour trade, biscottes, biscuits, bakery products, snacks...).

For the 2000/2001 programme (1<sup>st</sup> October 2000 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001, corresponding to the cereal campaign), the companies involved made up more than 70% of the biscuit factory and biscotte markets and around 40% of the flour trade market. The analytical parameters taken into account then, were the following :

- microbiological parameters : mesophilic aerobic flora, yeasts and moulds, total coliforms, *Escherichia coli*, sulphite reducing anaerobic bacteria, pathogenic staphylococcus, *Salmonella*.



- physico-chemical parameters : filth test, heavy metals (lead, cadmium, aluminium), pesticide residues (organochlorine, organophosphorus pyrethroids, chlormequat and piperonyl botoxyde)pesticide screenings) and mycotoxins (ochratoxin A, vomitoxin (DON), nivalenol, T-2 toxin, HT-2 toxin, fumonisin B1, zearalenone, aflatoxin B1, B2, G1, G2, M1)

Both the SNBPF and the SNBF associations entrusted Eurofins Scientific with the managing of this scheme. Eurofins also acted as a reference laboratory. The analyses were carried out in the various Centres of Competence.

After studying all the results of the 2000/2001 monitoring scheme, the orientation committee has recommended that, as far as the 2001/2002 campaign is concerned, priority given to cereals and milling products tests must mainly concern analyses on the following contaminants :

- 1 – DON and Zearalenone
- 2 – Aluminium
- 3 – Piperonyl butoxide and Chlormequat
- 4 – Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- 5 – Fumonisine B1

Monitoring must also be maintained on other trichotecenes (T2 toxin, HT-2 toxin and nivalenol) and organophosphorus pesticide residues as well ●

**Hugues Kenigswald, L'Alliance 7**  
**Marcel Dumoulin, Eurofins Scientific**  
**Contact : [MarcelDumoulin@eurofins.com](mailto:MarcelDumoulin@eurofins.com)**



© Published by Eurofins Scientific.  
All rights reserved.  
The greatest care has been taken to ensure accuracy but the publishers cannot accept any legal responsibility or liability for errors or omissions that may be made.

Eurofins Scientific CZ :  
Milan Hajek  
E-mail : [MilanHajek@eurofins.com](mailto:MilanHajek@eurofins.com)

Eurofins Scientific Denmark :  
Allan Steen  
E-mail : [as@miljo-kemi.com](mailto:as@miljo-kemi.com)

Newsletter editorial team :  
M. Lees, M. Dumoulin, C. Thiel, S. Alain  
M. Champion, M. L. Martin, G. Fuchs,  
L. Reimann  
Design and creation : M. Fournier

Eurofins Scientific France :  
Marcel Dumoulin  
E-mail : [MarcelDumoulin@eurofins.com](mailto:MarcelDumoulin@eurofins.com)

Eurofins Scientific Germany :  
Silke Bruns  
E-mail : [Silke.Bruns@wej.de](mailto:Silke.Bruns@wej.de)

Eurofins Scientific Switzerland :  
Olivier Schaller  
E-mail : [OlivierSchaller@eurofins.com](mailto:OlivierSchaller@eurofins.com)

Eurofins Scientific Netherlands :  
Mercedes Prinsen  
E-mail : [m.prinsen@analytico.com](mailto:m.prinsen@analytico.com)

Eurofins Scientific UK :  
Stewart Hollington  
E-mail : [StewartHollington@eurofins.com](mailto:StewartHollington@eurofins.com)

Eurofins Scientific USA :  
Jay Kurmaskie  
E-mail : [jaykurmaskie@eurofins.com](mailto:jaykurmaskie@eurofins.com)