

DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER



Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM Food Safety Seminar: Promoting Cooperation and Coordination on Food Safety Standards (Scientific and technical aspects)

11-12 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium

Concept Paper

Background

Food safety is an increasingly important issue faced by both Asia and Europe. Both Regions recognise their mutual interest to jointly promote wider scientific and technical coordination and cooperation on the food safety framework. Considering the challenges, this seminar will introduce advanced scientific knowledge and experiences in food safety management from Asian and European Countries.

The seminar aims to enlarge the outcome of the Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary (SPS) week organised in China on November 2014 on food safety. It is of paramount importance to consider that also other aspects are fundamental for having a complete overview of the food chain, in particular aspects related to animal health and animal welfare and all the other SPS components. Only considering also those aspects will help to correctly lead the food safety policy and rightly ensure a satisfactory level of protection for the consumers, for the zoo-technical sector and for the increasing request to cover animal welfare

principles. The seminar will facilitate all the involved partners in sharing scientific background, the system experiences on food safety in order to promote the exchanges of technical and scientific knowledge applicable to the food safety chain. Furthermore, it will help enhancing capacity-building on food safety and facilitate a better oversight of the relevant Regulations. While the SPS week was closely connected to the private sector, this seminar aims at gathering high level policy makers of ASEM competent authorities in the field of SPS.

Content

The seminar will focus on the following topics:

- the recent scientific developments achieved on food safety topics;
- food safety management policies among the Asian and European partners;
- how the food standards ensure an appropriate level of consumer protection;
- to which extent the food safety standards could be harmonised among partners;
- food safety regulations oversight;
- food safety market access standards;
- exchange of view on national food safety supervision and management expertise;
- technical and scientific cooperation in the framework of the international standard setting bodies;
- best practices and confidence building on phytosanitary policies;
- improving exchange of information channel in phytosanitary matters;
- improving cooperation and development of scientific projects;
- cooperation and exchange of means on animal welfare.

Participation

Representatives from competent Authorities responsible for animal health, welfare and plant health and food safety, government agencies, universities and research institutes, ASEM stakeholders and business associations engaged in food safety.

Format

The event will include two days meeting. Format includes forum, panel discussion, training courses, exhibition of products and technologies, and field visit, etc.

Date and Place

Date: 11-12 November 2015 (TBC)

Venue: Brussels, Charlemagne Building (TBC)

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