

Opening

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Dear Dr. Hnizdil from the State Phytosanitary Administration Prague – Head of Division for Protection of Harmful Organism,

Dear Dr. Harasta – Head of the Application Technique Department and local organizer of this workshop – Brno,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to open the SPISE 3 Workshop 2009 and welcome you all here to Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic and a very traditional one at that.

I would also like to welcome you on behalf of my colleagues in the SPISE Working Group. We are also pleased to be able to welcome about 100 participants from 27 countries.

I think the organizers have chosen an attractive place to host the conference which is also fairly central for us all in Europe, and which is also characterised by the fact that the State Phytosanitary Administration – Application Technique Department has been able to gain extensive experience of equipment inspections in the past, building up a high-quality and well organised equipment inspections which we will be able to see tomorrow in greater detail when we go on the excursion.

At this point, Dr Hnizdil and Dr. Harasta, our host, many thanks for letting us be here together with our European colleagues for 3 days, and in addition to the technical matters which will be occupying us over the next few days, thank you also for the opportunity you have given us to gain our own impressions of the city of Brno and of your beautiful country.

The September date for the 3rd SPISE Workshop may have come as a surprise to many of you, since the Workshop on the inspection of plant protection equipment normally takes place in spring.

However, the large number of activities to do with the Czech presidency in the 1st half of 2009 made us decide not to schedule the Workshop for this period.

In the SPISE 2 Workshop 2007 in Straelen, the discussion

- on the Thematic Strategy, in particular on equipment inspections, and
- on the Amendment for the Machine Directive, specially on the certification of new equipment, already were in full swing.

In the meantime, the legislation process for both projects has been completed.

This means that we, as experts, have clear frame work requirements/specifications which we must implement and establish in our own Member States.

Nevertheless, I believe it is helpful for understanding matters better to address both these European Directives properly in order to understand the regulations as a whole and to get to know the expectations which are associated with these by the Commission. And nobody could do this better than representatives from the European Commission themselves.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to welcome with you 2 representatives from the EC to our SPISE 3 Workshop.

- Dr. van Tongelen - DG Environment, who will show us the FWD and explain this to us and
- Mr. Fraser - DG Enterprise, who will talk to us about the amendment directive for the Machine Directive.

Our focus during the SPISE 3 Workshop is as always the inspection of plant protection equipment which is already in use.

Article 8 of the Framework Directive stipulates the framework which the Member States have decided on together with the Commission and which is to be specified further and implemented by the Member States.

SPISE sees itself as a platform for technically orientated experts for plant protection equipment from the Member States who are interested in a technical procedure which is as uniform as possible and who are prepared to offer their expertise in discussions at Member State level.

The word SPISE symbolize this idea; it means "Standardized Procedure for Inspection of Sprayers in Europe". It is not meant for making political decisions, but at the most for making statements or recommendations which could be taken into account for future (political) decisions.

We have set the Round Table session at the beginning of today's workshop so that this technically oriented expert discussion is not one-sided and is not shortened.

To this end we have invited representatives from European organisations/associations who are concerned or affected by this so that they can express their opinions and expectations associated with the introduction of a European inspection and discuss these with us.

I would therefore also like to welcome most sincerely

- Mr. Hagenvall, - European Crop Protection Association- ECPA
- Mr. Oldenkmap, - European Committee of association of manufacturers of Agricultural machinery – CEMA
- Dr. Rademacher - European Farmers Union – COPA and
- Mr. Wehmann - my colleague from the Institute for Application Techniques in Plant Protection.

As we have all learnt, an effective and flexible legislation is not possible in the EU without efficient, competent standardisation. This definitely also applies to the implementation of the legal regulations for plant protection equipment. For this reason, the COM issued the CEN a mandate in November 2008 to compile the necessary EN standards for both directives.

This caused France, how holds the secretariat of the CEN/TC 144/WG 3, to set up two standard projects, whose project leaders are also with us and whom I would also like to welcome.

They are

- Mr. Polvêche, responsible for the revision of EN 13790 and
- Mr. Rousseau, responsible for EN 12761, also chairman of SC 6 of ISO/TC 23.

Following the initiation of important standardisation projects

- the first meeting on the European standards will be on 20 and 21 October 2009 in Paris –

it is now time to talk about

- how the Member States will deal with the additional regulations required and

- how they will handle the leeway which the Framework Directive provides.

Our SPISE 3 Workshop is expected to make a contribution to this.

I think that with the experts present from around 25 Member States, we will be successful at this over the next 3 days.

Once again I welcome you all most sincerely and wish us successful few days.