

## Introduction to the Workshop

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

before we start with the actual workshop agenda, I would just like to give you some general information about it.

The SPISE Working Group had a catalogue of tasks to complete when the resolution from the SPISE 2 Workshop was passed, one of which was to organise this 3rd SPISE Workshop.

With regard to the SWG's activities, we can say that we were invited by the DG Environment to discussions in Brussels twice.

We were able to present our ideas on the inspection of plant protection equipment already in use and the certification of brand new equipment and to make suggestions for clarifying distribution measurements for field crop and air-assisted sprayers.

- A number of tasks have been completed (mutual recognition, inspection intervals),
- others are still in progress (standards ...),
- and some were not taken up (research work),
- important matters which were not decided on or completed have been put back onto the agenda (Session 6).

The Framework Directive which was accepted on 13 January 2009 by the European Parliament and which will be adopted at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers and which is now available in all the languages of the Member States has made it easy for us to compile a program for the SPISE 3 Workshop.

As you can see, one (or two) paragraphs of Article 8 of the Framework Directive are allocated to each section as the main topic which will determine the content and discussion in the individual sessions.

I am sure that for many of us, the whole spectrum of the FWD, including all its consequences, is still not yet completely clear. In this regard there will be many questions, and interpretations and further specifications by the Member States will be required. I am therefore quite sure that we will all be learning a lot over the next few days, that we will be able to decide on a uniform way of handling the language and interpretation of the Framework Directive and that the need for additional regulations in the Member States will become clear.

In this regard I think it is important to be made clear at the end of each session which other supporting regulations for a uniform enforcement in the Member States are still required – a respective proposal will be presented and explained – and what action is seen as being necessary for the SPISE Working Group.

It is intended to incorporate the results of the workshop in a resolution similar to the procedure for both the previous SPISE Workshops, in order to document these and to provide you with some assistance for the discussion which has already begun with the implementation of the Framework Directive in the Member States or which will do so shortly.

Our colleagues in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany who have been carrying out a mandatory inspection for years have updated their info packages on the SPISE website so that you can also read up on the current regulations regarding equipment inspections which work well (laws, ordinances, guidelines ...).

Our agenda acts on the positive experience from the previous workshops in offering a practical excursion to inspection workshops on day 2 for learning about the organisation and practical work involved in equipment inspections in the hosting country. Following this, there will be a workshop dinner on the evening of the 2nd day, during which national specialities will be served and there will be more time for further talks and discussions.

At this point I would like to thank our colleagues from the Organizing and Scientific Committee who have been involved in a very constructive way in preparations, have taken over leading the sessions, and who will be taking part in the excursion.

The Round Table session will take place first so that our discussions in the sessions also take into account all the important primary aspects. Our guest speakers from COM, ECPA, CEMA and COPA are already in position.

I welcome you once again most sincerely.

It will be led by my colleague Prof. Balsari.