



### EDITORIAL

It is the start of a new year, a new decade, and a further stage in the maturity of BTSF.

As the BTSF conference in November demonstrated (see our highlights below), BTSF has now reached an operational level where it is delivering wide and tangible benefits in boosting food safety, in Europe and beyond.

It has also acquired a new degree of prestige and profile. The top-level keynote speakers at the November conference made clear their satisfaction with the contribution that BTSF is making to this key EU priority of food safety.

Our activity is also visible in the continuing evolution of our workshop programmes, with new modules scheduled for introduction during the course of 2011.

The end of last year also saw the release of a staff working document on BTSF (see below under "What's new"). This sets targets for the short-medium term (up to and including 2013) and long term (from 2014), with the overall aim of increasing the size, quality, impact and productivity of BTSF.

Against this background, there is every reason to wish our colleagues, clients and contractors a very happy new year!

This newsletter provides information on activities organised within the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative. You'll find the latest news and views about BTSF training and issues related to the initiative as well as upcoming dates for your diary.

## BTSF on show: major achievements in Africa



"I attach a great deal of importance to this event and its special focus on Africa", said European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli, in his remarks to the BTSF conference in Brussels on November 18–19.

**"We can all be justifiably proud of the achievements of the Better Training for Safer Food programme in Africa", he said.**

BTSF has contributed to the OIE evaluation of the performance of veterinary services, improved legal frameworks for animal health and food safety, and strengthened the capacities of laboratory technicians and chief veterinary officers, through national and regional workshops and the creation of harmonised guidance on food hygiene management, as well as helping small and medium sized companies to implement international standards.

Speaking of BTSF's principal activities that take place within the European Union, Dalli also said: "Appreciation has been expressed by almost everyone who has been involved in the programme, at whatever level". He declared: "I am ready, together with my services to do what is necessary to ensure that the Better Training for Safer Food programme continues to achieve our overarching aim of safer food for all."

See details of the conference on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/training\\_strategy/news/20101124\\_high\\_level\\_conf\\_btsf\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/news/20101124_high_level_conf_btsf_en.htm)



## Changes in the team at EAHC BTSF



Our colleagues Markus Brunner and Andras Badacsonyi left EAHC on 15 October and 30 November 2010 to take new positions respectively in DG SANCO and in the European Research Council Executive Agency. Meanwhile, there are two new additions to the BTSF staff in Luxembourg, Zoran Kovac and Marc Vandembroeck.

I would like to express to Markus and Andras my deep gratitude for the support, guidance and encouragement provided in the management of the BTSF initiative. I have enjoyed working with them and I would like to wish them all the best for the new phase of their careers.

At the same time, I would like to warmly welcome the new colleagues Zoran and Marc. Before coming to EAHC, Zoran was working for DG Education and Culture and Marc for the European Food Safety Authority. They have considerable experience and I am sure they can do excellent work and help BTSF succeed further in the new challenges it is taking on.

Salvatore Magazzù  
Head of Unit

### What's new

- In 2011 BTSF is extending its already wide range of training programmes with two new calls for tender, which are open until February/March. One of them (EAHC/2010/BTSF/04: Modules for e-learning training courses under the programme "Better Training for Safer Food") covers the development of five e-learning training modules. The aim is to increase outreach with basic-level training through e-learning, reaching a larger audience at lower cost. It will also make courses more flexible, easing time management for officials making use of these courses, and will also help in selecting participants for the more advanced types of BTSF workshops and courses involving participation on the spot. For more information contact EAHC-BTSF-CALLS@ec.europa.eu under the following reference: EAHC/2010/BTSF/04. The deadline to submit tenders for this procedure is the 30th of March.

The other call (EAHC/2010/BTSF/09: Organisation and implementation of further training activities concerning veterinary legislation to be held mainly for EU Member States under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' initiative) is divided into two lots (see below) and the deadline to submit tenders for this procedure was the 18th of February 2011.

**Lot n°1** covers microbiological criteria and control of zoonoses, with the aim of developing best practices in the implementation of microbiological criteria and investigation of foodborne outbreaks, and monitoring and control of zoonoses and zoonotic agents – in particular Salmonella control in poultry and pigs.

**Lot n°2** covers Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) in Member States, focusing on TRACES use at import, and in intra-EU trade. For more information, contact EAHC-BTSF-CALLS@ec.europa.eu under the following reference: EAHC/2010/BTSF/09.

- The European Commission published a staff working document on the future of BTSF. This analyses the challenges of meeting the demand for high-quality training, developing a demand-driven approach, clearer identification of priorities and target audiences, and improved dissemination and evaluation. It suggests possible actions in the short, medium and long term.

See the document in full on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/training\\_strategy/docs/1819112010\\_btfs\\_conf\\_staff\\_working\\_document.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/docs/1819112010_btfs_conf_staff_working_document.pdf)

### Upcoming events

- 21–25 February**, Food hygiene and controls of meat and meat products, York, United Kingdom
- 21–25 February**, HACCP principles and audit techniques, Stratford-upon-Avon, United Kingdom
- 28 February–2 March**, Laboratory workshop on control of avian influenza and other animal diseases, Copenhagen, Denmark (this training course is currently run by DG SANCO)
- 28 February–4 March**, HACCP principles and audit techniques, Malta
- 1–4 March**, Plant health controls on EU plant quarantine regime for wood packaging material, Lisbon, Portugal
- 7–11 March**, HACCP principles and audit techniques, Budapest, Hungary
- 7–11 March**, Food hygiene and controls of fishery products and live bivalve molluscs, Sevilla/Huelva, Spain