

PROJECT REPORT SUMMARY

Project nr:	ZT(2009)03
Subject:	Exploratory and informative meetings in The Hague and Brussels
Offered to (ZT): Sponsored by (RT): Contracted by (FT):	Not applicable
Start and end-dates:	28 – 29 October 2009
Experts involved:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Goldberg (AG), Chair MB OHP • Herman Koëter (HK), Managing Director OHP • Pieter Vaandrager (PV), Policy Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, NL • Jan Deelstra (JD), Director, Ministry of Agriculture, NL • Maarten Brouwer (MB), Ambassador, Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NL • Robert Madelin (RM), DG, EC Health and Consumers • Paola Testori-Coggi (PT), Dep DG, EC Health and Consumers • Bernard van Goethem (BG), Director, EC Health and Consumers • Patrice Pillet (PP), EC Cooperation Officer, EuropeAIDCO
Background and Objectives:	The objective of the mission was to introduce OHP to parties of interest in OHP's mission and objectives and to put OHP clearly on their respective radar screens. Some meetings were merely to brief on progress with the work in China.
Meetings and Missions:	<p><u>28 October: Meeting at the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture</u> The meeting was scheduled with PV and JD of International Affairs. The department had contributed to the China training project [RT(2009)01] and was briefed on the outcome of the project. The following was agreed: (i) OHP will give a presentation of the project to one of the monthly policy staff meetings (set at 18.02.2010) and (ii) HK will draft a brief report for the Ministry's monthly staff newsletter (was published on 10th November, in Dutch). Unfortunately, JD could not participate in the meeting as a result of an urgent, unscheduled, meeting he had to chair.</p> <p><u>28 October: Meeting at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs</u> The meeting with MB was a typical informative meeting and AG and HK assured that OHP's mission was well understood. There are options for funding but only on a project basis for which tenders are published. In addition, OHP could well be asked to provide ad hoc advice in emergency situations (chemical spills, pollution issues).</p>

	<p><u>29 October: Meeting at DG Health and Consumer Safety</u> This meeting was arranged to brief the Commission about the outcome of the China project which they had sponsored. RM had arranged for PT, BG and several other staff to attend as well. AG and HK explained OHP and HK briefed the meeting about the outcome of the China project. He also shared some concerns about the level of knowledge on food risk assessment in China and made some suggestions for EU cooperation. It was agreed that HK would draft a 2 page document laying out his suggestions for concerted action for the Commission's consideration [this was submitted on 1st December as MB/M(2009)16CONF]. OHP may well be considered for follow-up activities in China.</p> <p><u>29 October: Meeting at EC Europe-AIDCO</u> This was again an informative meeting to make AIDCO aware of OHP. There was a great deal of interest in the OHP approach, in particular for addressing urgent chemical safety issues at very short notice. OHP is now clearly in their cyberspace. PP brought us up-to-date on a number of informative websites on which calls for proposals are published. This meeting needs follow-up within 6 months with officials with a more prominent policy background.</p> <p><u>29 October: Bunge Senior EU management meeting on GMOs</u> Unrelated to the series of meetings addressed above, HK and AG were invited to the annual Bunge meeting of senior European managers to discuss <i>in camera</i> GMO policies. Three or 4 other experts (from the Commission, academia and consultancies) were also invited. HK gave a presentation about the EU process of safety assessment.</p>
Main Topics and observations:	<p>These meetings are rather time-consuming and the output is hard to measure or assess. Nonetheless they are important for the visibility of OHP which, in particular in these early days of its existence is of great importance. The meetings were scheduled at rather short notice and time did not allow to fit in more than these five. Meetings which will be organised in the next few month include: the EU Parliament, Development Committee; selected individual MEPs; the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons); USAID, USDA, FAO, Oxfam; UNEP; UNDP; UNITAR; UNIDO; CARE International; and World Food Program (WFP).</p>
Documentation (to be attached):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNV Newsletter of November (last page, in Dutch) • MB/M(2009)16CONF • Powerpoint presentation on EU GMO assessment .
Date:	2 December 2009
Signature:	Herman B.W.M.Koëter

