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**NOTE**

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from :            Presidency  
to :                Special Committee on Agriculture

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Subject :        The Work Programme of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer  
                         Protection

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Delegations will find attached the Work programme drawn up by the German Presidency concerning Agriculture and Fishery sectors, to be presented to delegations at the Special Committee on Agriculture meeting on 15 January 2007.

**German Presidency of the Council of the European  
Union 2007**

**The Work Programme  
of the Federal Ministry of  
Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection**

***“Protecting the basis of life in a sustainable Europe – for regional diversity, quality and innovation”***

Food, agriculture and consumer protection are instrumental in protecting and shaping the basis and quality of life of the more than 490 million citizens of the European Union. A great deal of the appeal and strength of the "Europe" project is due to the successful action taken in these policy areas over the past 50 years.

From the very beginning, the Common Agricultural Policy was a common area of (western) European development which helped to create a sense of identity. The regulations in the agricultural sector promoted peace by linking up rural regions and by showing solidarity in balancing out the burden imposed on people by the extensive agricultural changes.

Today, many people unjustly underestimate these and other aspects of what the European Union has achieved. And yet there is a wide range of such aspects - safeguarding peace, upholding human dignity and human rights, establishing democracy, and developing the Community's internal market with its freedoms of goods, services and travel – which remains an ongoing task for the European Union, as well as one of its ongoing achievements.

It is just as much part of the European Union's continued development to build closer political, legal and economic ties – particularly with the new Member States – as it is to bring the European Union closer to its citizens, increase efficiency and deepen the roots of democracy on the basis of the European understanding of freedom and social justice.

Safeguarding the foundations of efficient agricultural production, raising awareness about healthy food, and protecting and developing consumer rights are, and will remain, an integral part of the European Union as an economic and cultural community with shared values. Over the decades this has contributed to citizens knowing, and feeling, that there is a common European bond.

“Europe’s soul” is also present in rural regions. As elsewhere, citizens from rural regions also launch initiatives to expand European horizons and deepen this common European bond. Rural areas in Europe are a pillar of living democracy, economic performance and cultural renewal. Strengthening rural regions also strengthens the future of Europe.

Industrial, cultural and political globalisation marches on, bringing with it new challenges as well as old.

But the ability to transform challenges into opportunities has always been one of Europe's main strengths. Globalisation makes it necessary to once again look beyond national interests and viewpoints and focus more on the common European interest. The following principle applies: Variety in unity, unity in variety. This is Europe's strength. A strong European Union ultimately strengthens all Member States.

Fifty years after the signing of the Rome Treaties, the German Presidency of the Council will focus its attention on the future and on the tasks which must be faced in order to continue the European Union’s development. The aim must be,

- In the light of the Lisbon Strategy, to strengthen Europe’s competitiveness, promote science and the research and development of future-orientated technologies, to support in this area the agricultural and food sectors as driving forces behind the use of modern technology in rural regions, and press ahead with and guide targeted structural change in rural regions;
- to find answers to new challenges relating to energy policy, international trade issues and also climate change – it is by these new challenges that the European Union’s ability to act will be judged in the 21st century - and all of the areas involved require the rural regions of Europe and rural industry to play a crucial role;
- to strengthen citizens' identification with Europe - by respecting and developing regional variety, by cutting unnecessary red tape and by ensuring that there is a high level of consumer protection;

All eyes are on the new Member States of the European Union, in particular Bulgaria and Romania which are acceding to the Union on 1 January 2007. We would like to continue the successful process of European integration and engage in constructive cooperation with the new Member States in the fields of food, agriculture and consumer protection.

The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection's work will concentrate on eight areas:

1. **Simplification and Cutting Red Tape – making space for innovation and investment**
2. **Quality and Competition –European agriculture in the face of the global challenge**
3. **Security and Progress – renewable resources: an energy of the future**
4. **Fair Balance of Interests – international trade policy in focus**
5. **Culture, Progress, Added Value – investing in the future of rural regions**
6. **Balancing Use and Sustainability – protection of animals and natural resources**
7. **High Food Safety Standards and a Healthy Diet – Europe: strong in responsibility and prevention**
8. **Consumer Policy: on Equal Footing – more rights, greater transparency and better protection**

The priority areas in detail:

### ***1. Simplification and Cutting Red Tape – making space for innovation and investment***

(1) In implementing the Lisbon Strategy, the European Commission is currently working at full stretch – supported by all Member States – on improving legislation in the European Union by means of simplification and cutting red tape (the "Verheugen Initiative"). The aim is to modernise the legal framework and reduce the administrative burden in order:

- To reduce industry's administrative burden to a level which is necessary according to the rule of law but which serves practical requirements;
- To thus allow industry to regain time and money which can be used in other areas for innovation and investment;
- To continue to increase the economic appeal of the European Union in accordance with the aims of the Lisbon Process; and
- to continue to increase citizens' identification with Europe.

(2) As in other sectors, companies in the agricultural and food sectors have seen their duties regarding documentation, control and other administrative tasks become more onerous in recent decades to the extent that these duties now constitute a heavy burden. Many people regard the Common Agricultural Policy – with its regulations making up almost 60% of total EU law – as a synonym for excessively complicated rules and regulations.

(3) Simplification and cutting red tape are therefore among the tasks with the highest political priority for the German Presidency. The aim is to step up initiatives started by the European Commission and the individual Member States and to expand on targeted aspects of these initiatives – in all areas of European policy and action.

(4) The German Presidency attaches great importance to simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy. The 2003 agricultural reform saw the adoption of the Cross Compliance regime which links the payment of direct aid to farmers to compliance with environmental law, animal protection and food law requirements. One particular aim of the Presidency will be to ensure that these regulations are structured to serve practical needs. The Commission will draw up a report and, based on this, the Council will adopt follow-up initiatives which will be implemented by means of packages of measures. EU Commissioner Fischer-Boel and Federal Minister Seehofer have agreed to set up a joint working group to facilitate targeted preparation of this objective.

(5) Another core focus will be on pressing ahead with work on the technical simplification of the existing legal framework. Bringing together the existing 21 market organisations to form a single Common Market Organisation will play a key role in this area. The substance of current instruments and mechanisms is, however, to remain unchanged. The aim is to make the Common Agricultural Policy in these areas more transparent and coherent for those involved and for the general public.

(6) In addition to these two aims, the German Presidency will also:

- Strongly support further implementation of the “EU Action Plan for the Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy” - the aim is to adopt as many initiatives as possible in the first half of 2007 and to introduce new proposals into the Action Plan;
- Press ahead with current work on simplification and cutting red tape in the Common Fisheries Policy, in European consumer protection policy, in the support schemes for developing rural areas and in all other fields containing regulations which relate to European policies.

## ***2. Quality and Competition –European agriculture in the face of the global challenge***

(1) A large part of the total area of the European Union, with its 27 Member States, is managed by approximately 15 million agricultural and forestry holdings. Small and medium-sized companies are the economic heart and the driving force of the Union in terms of implementing the Lisbon Strategy in Europe’s rural areas.

Progress towards creating the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economic area of the world is largely determined by the strength and earning power of rural holdings, and consequently also by the agricultural sector.

(2) The Common Agricultural Policy is a constitutive part of the European integration process. The Rome Treaties, signed almost 50 years ago on 25 March 1957, were based on the two pillars of "Economy" and "Agriculture". This joint consensus still has an influence today as a link between the Member States of the European Union with their different interests. Looking at the economic and agricultural structures in the ten new Member States of the European Union, and in the countries of Bulgaria and Romania which are acceding on 1 January 2007, the Common Agricultural Policy will continue to enjoy an extremely high status.

(3) Over the past 50 years, the Common Agricultural Policy has been the motor of the European integration process and always high on Europe's political agenda. The last agricultural reform in 2003 and the resolutions on the Financial Perspective 2007-2013 have once again demonstrated the European Union's decisiveness; the Union has now set the course for a sustainable, high-quality and competitive agricultural sector.

(4) The German Presidency regards the Common Agricultural Policy as a priority task and will press ahead with the process of development and reform which has already been initiated. This will also entail intensifying the discussion on the future of the European model of agriculture and raising the question as to the potential of the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (rural areas). The discussion will also deal with numerous initiatives in individual market areas as well as the following crucial cross-sector measures:

- The negotiations, and possible conclusion, of the reform of the market organisations for fruit and vegetables;
- The initiation of reform of the wine market; and
- The possible conclusion of the negotiations on the Spirit Drinks Regulation and on the restructuring of organic farming.

(5) One of the main aims of the German Presidency regarding the above proposed reforms and all its other work will be to continue to increase the European agricultural sector's competitiveness and to contribute towards available funds being invested primarily in future-orientated measures.

### ***3. Security and Progress – renewable resources: an energy of the future***

(1) Energy policy is one of the main challenges of the future; this will be one area in which the Member States of the European Union will have to prove their ability to act in the 21st century. Political decisions in these fields will largely influence and determine future economic development.

(2) It is necessary to be resolute in continuing along the chosen path towards renewable resources and regenerative energies. With regard to the cultivation and processing of renewable resources, the European agricultural and forestry sector has manoeuvred itself into a superb starting position in recent years.

(3) The German Presidency will strongly advocate developing and extending the use of renewable resources in the production of renewable energies. The aim is:

- To continue to improve general conditions for the practical application of renewable resources in the fields of heat, electricity and fuels;
- To continue developing the use of renewable resources for non-energy purposes as well as for energy generation; and
- To significantly expand support of research and innovation in all areas in which renewable resources are used.

(4) By holding an international conference in March 2007, the German Presidency would like to support and further promote the dialogue process and exchange of experience between industry, science and politics, and also identify other areas where political action is needed.

(5) One of the German Presidency's priorities will be to support the activities for the continued implementation of the "EU Action Plan on Biomass" which were announced by the Commission. This will assist in developing a large number of new business and application areas for renewable resources.

(6) Another of the German Council Presidency's priorities will be to continue promotion of bio fuels on the European fuel market. One main aim in this area is to carry on implementing the "EU Strategy for Biofuels" and to lay down ambitious and binding goals in Europe for beyond 2010.

(7) In view of the fact that the amount of biomass and biofuels produced and imported will probably rise in future, the German Presidency will support the creation of a biomass-production certification system which is based on sustainability criteria. The aim is to protect sustainable forms of management, meet environmental protection requirements and exploit potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, and consequently to show the great benefits of biomass and its inherent potential for the future to maximum advantage.

#### ***4. Fair Balance of Interests – international trade policy in focus***

(1) Growth, employment and Europe's high living standards depend largely on the European economy's international competitiveness and access to the global markets. The basic prerequisite for this is a successful international trade policy allowing the European Union as a unit to achieve much more than each Member State could achieve on its own.

(2) Agricultural policy often plays a key role in the European Union's multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations. This is also true of the current WTO Doha Development Round, at which the European Union has already shown great responsibility, in particular with the reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy and the "Everything But Arms" initiative, and also in respect of the interests of the poorest countries.

(3) The German Presidency attaches great importance to the resumed WTO negotiations being brought to a successful conclusion and will be energetic in its role as mediator within the European Union and internationally. The Presidency is aware that further liberalisation in the field of agricultural policy would bring new opportunities and new export possibilities. However, it also sees possible risks for the Internal Market and the Common Agricultural Policy.

(4) In addition to the multilateral WTO negotiations, the German Presidency will also be open to the conclusion of further bilateral trade agreements and will meet its responsibility as Presidency in this area as well. Particular importance is attached to the enlargement process, while bearing in mind both the issue of the European Union's ability to absorb more countries and the expansion of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

(5) In addition to international trade policy, the German Presidency also regards the reform of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) as very important, in order to enable the FAO to do greater justice to its role in fighting hunger in the world than hitherto. To achieve the first of the Millennium Development Goals, namely that of halving the proportion of the world population suffering from hunger by 2015, it is of crucial importance that rural areas are developed and that the potential of the agricultural sector is exploited. The European Union must use its key role to equip the FAO for the global challenges of our time, including through the restructuring of the United Nations.

### ***5. Culture, Progress, Added Value – investing in the future of rural regions***

(1) Over half of the European Union's population lives in rural areas. Rural areas also make up a large part of the territory. Together with the towns and cities, the rural regions form the foundation for European development. With their own respective cultural and economic characteristics, the rural regions' great variety is the heartbeat of the European Union.

(2) Investments in the future of the European Union's rural areas will play a hugely important role in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy. The aim must be to continue to develop economic dynamism, to promote training and education, and to develop regionally adapted solutions in areas ranging from infrastructure and modern mobility to the greater distribution of information and communication technologies.

(3) The objective of European policies for rural areas must be to support the reforms of the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. At the same time, these policies are intended to contribute towards implementing both the European Strategy for Growth and Employment and the Gothenburg sustainability goals. With the aim of arriving at a coherent overall strategy and policy for rural areas, the German Presidency will advocate projecting the focus beyond agricultural policy to other EU policies dealing with the development of rural areas. It is intended that rural areas should become a priority subject of European politics.

(4) The German Presidency gives priority to activities which promote innovations and investments in sustainable sectors and in modern infrastructure facilities of rural areas. One of the factors which shows this priority status is the decision to hold an international conference on the prospects of rural areas in light of the development potential of renewable resources.

(5) Following the adoption of the Regulation on “Support for Rural Development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)” 2007-2013, the year 2007 will be devoted to programme approval and implementation. The question as to how the profile of support can continue to be improved in the medium term to take account of specific regional needs will also need to be examined. Particular importance will be attached to integrated approaches.

#### **6. *Balancing Use and Sustainability – protection of animals and natural resources***

(1) European citizens attach great importance to animal protection. In order to continue improving animal welfare in the European Union, the German Presidency will carry out intensive work in targeted areas to implement the "EU Action Plan for Animal Protection 2006-2010". The main focus will be on:

- Passing a ban on importing and trading with dog and cat fur and products which contain such fur;
- adopting minimum requirements on the protection of chickens for fattening;
- Amending the Directive on the protection of laboratory animals; and
- Embedding animal protection more firmly in other policy areas.

(2) The German Presidency will use the occasion of a separate Animal Protection Day to focus on the labelling of foods produced in an animal welfare friendly manner, in order to continue improving animal protection and to enable sound consumer information to be provided.

(3) In the fields of plant protection and plant health, the German Presidency will advocate further harmonisation and as high a level of protection as possible for consumers and the environment. The focus will be on the following measures:

- The framework for Community action on the sustainable use of pesticides;
- The revision of the Pesticide Directive;
- The amendment of a Directive on the Control of Organisms Harmful to Plants (Potato Cultivation); and
- The harmonisation of phytosanitary standards at international level;

(4) The oceans represent one of our most precious and also most endangered natural resources. Joint efforts are required in all relevant policy areas in order to provide marine ecosystems with effective and sustainable protection. The German Presidency will therefore continue to pursue and expand on a horizontal marine policy, the approach taken in the Commission's Green Paper. It will at the same time also press ahead with simplifying legislation relating to the Common Fisheries Policy in order to reduce the burden on the fisheries sector and the competent administrations.

(5) Many types of fish are still overfished in the waters of the European Union. The guiding principles for the planned reforms under the German Presidency will therefore be sustainable management of fisheries resources and diversification of economic activities in areas which have hitherto been dependent on fishing. This will include in particular:

- Improvements in monitoring fisheries activities and controlling illegal fishing;
- An initiative to protect young marine animals;
- A multi-year recovery plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and a management plan for plaice and sole in the North Sea;
- A binding definition of drift-net fishing, to allow the existing ban to be enforced effectively;
- Research on changes to the fish stocks caused by the climate; and
- The eco-labelling of fishery products.

Other priorities in fisheries policy will include the intra-Community implementation of the Fisheries Agreement with Greenland and the protection of the European eel.

(6) Healthy forests are vitally important for humans and the environment. At the same time, forestry and forest-based industries are a key mainstay in rural areas, providing important potential for economic growth. The German Presidency will focus on the following activities:

- Continued implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan;
- Implementation of the Action Plan against Illegal Logging; and
- Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

### ***7. High Food Safety Standards and a Healthy Diet – Europe: strong in responsibility and prevention***

(1) The European Union leads the world in food safety and food quality. This benefits not only consumers but also industry – it is an advantage for Europe as an economic location in global competition.

(2) The German Presidency aims to consolidate Europe's high level of consumer protection regarding food safety, and will therefore press ahead with and support the following processes:

- The continued development and optimisation of European strategies for controlling animal diseases - new diagnostic methods could assist in significantly reducing the number of culled animals;
- Increase in the transparency and coherence of the procedures which govern the approval of genetically altered organisms by the "European Food Safety Authority" (EFSA) and the Commission;
- Dynamism in negotiations concerning proposals for regulations on food additives, flavourings and enzymes in foods (with instructions for use, labelling regulations etc.) and on a standard approval procedure for these substances;
- The start of negotiations on the amended Regulation Concerning Novel Foods and Novel Food Ingredients;
- Work on the amendment of the Regulation on Health Requirements for Animal By-products;
- Improvement in the monitoring of residues in veterinary drugs.

(3) Overweight, malnourishment and unhealthy diets are widespread in Europe. Overweight is now increasingly prevalent among children and young adults. The consequences are alarming: personal strain, deterioration in performance at school and at work, and a dramatic increase in costs for the health system.

(4) With this in mind, the German Presidency will press ahead with activities in this area, particularly for children and young adults, using both experience gained with the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, which was launched in 2005, and the expertise contained in the Green Paper on Promoting Healthy Diets and Physical Activity. A conference is also to be held in cooperation with the Federal Health Ministry, entitled "Prevention for Health: Nutrition and Physical Activity"

#### ***8. Consumer Policy: on Equal Footing – more rights, greater transparency and better protection***

(1) A consumer policy which regards consumer interests as being equally as important as economic interests reinforces consumers' trust and provides important impetus for implementing the European Strategy for More Growth and Employment.

(2) Standard Europe-wide minimum requirements in the field of consumer policy – for more rights, greater transparency and better protection of consumers in Europe - create improved conditions for industry, increase the population’s confidence in innovations and create additional impetus for growth

- In cross-border movement of goods and services,
- In the internal market for financial services, and also
- Regarding the market introduction of technical innovations.

(3) The German Presidency’s activities relating to consumer policy will include advocating continuing to anchor rights, transparency, information, and scope for individual responsibility and self-determination in the various specialised policies and coordinating these policies so that consumers are on an equal footing when dealing with industry – to the advantage of both sides. Considerable importance is attached to integrating industry and to providing impetus for social dialogue processes.

(4) The German Presidency’s prioritised initiatives will include discussions on, and the adoption of, follow-up measures relating to the Consumer Strategy 2007-2013 and continued implementation of the Community’s Action Programme in the Field of Consumer Policy (2007-2013).

(5) Digital technologies are now in use throughout Europe: for communicating, exchanging information via the Internet, buying goods, buying and selling services and conducting banking and insurance transactions. The German Presidency will launch initiatives to increase the safety of these new technologies for consumers and to consequently reinforce confidence in their use. Further impetus will be provided in March 2007 by the conference on “Challenges and Opportunities in a Digital World. The Role of Consumer Policy” which is due to be held in Berlin.

This work programme is intended to contribute towards promoting and fostering the process of European progress and building a sustainable Europe in the age of globalisation.

**Events held by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection during the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the 1st half of 2007**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue / date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
International Green Week Berlin will be opened by Commission President Barroso and Federal Chancellor Merkel.	Berlin from 18 – 28 January 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:L4@bmelv.bund.de">L4@bmelv.bund.de</a>	Exhibition for the food, agricultural and horticultural sectors
European Commission conference: “Food Quality Schemes”: participants will include Federal Minister Seehofer	Brussels from 5 -6 February 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:223@bmelv.bund.de">223@bmelv.bund.de</a>	This conference will discuss food quality issues in a European and international context in respect of health, safety and cost-effectiveness. It will also focus on current and future quality assurance in the European agricultural sector.
Conference: “Prevention for Health – Nutrition and Physical Activity – A Key to Healthy Living”: participants will include Parliamentary State Secretary Caspers-Merk (Federal Ministry of Health) and Parliamentary State Secretary Müller	Badenweiler from 25 - 27 February 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:221@bmelv.bund.de">221@bmelv.bund.de</a>	The example of food and physical activity shows that prevention begins with personal responsibility but also requires support from the State and all social actors. The aim of the conference is to identify solution concepts and to develop joint recommendations. The conference represents the beginning of a series of discussions which will be picked up on and continued by the subsequent EU Council Presidencies (Portugal and Slovenia).

<p>"Fuelling the Future - Renewable Resources Show the Way Forward for Rural Areas in Europe" – under the auspices of Parliamentary State Secretary Müller, with a welcoming address by Federal Minister Seehofer.</p>	<p>Nuremberg from 5 -6 March 2007</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:L5@bmelv.bund.de">L5@bmelv.bund.de</a></p>	<p>The conference will deal with the subject areas of biofuels, heat and electricity from renewable resources, sustainable production of biomass, and non-energetic and industrial use of renewable resources, with the aim of promoting the exchange of information between EU Member States and investigating the necessary framework conditions and the need for action.</p>
<p>Conference: Challenges and Opportunities in a Digital World. The Role of Consumer Policy” Federal Minister Seehofer will be participating on "Consumer Rights Day" on 15 March 2007.</p>	<p>Berlin from 14 -15 March 2007</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:211@bmelv.bund.de">211@bmelv.bund.de</a></p>	<p>New digital technologies and innovations offer opportunities for better consumer communication and economic growth. Whether these technologies are a success depends chiefly on whether consumer confidence in the safety of technologies can be gained and consumer interests taken into account at an early stage. Representatives of EU Member States, consumers, industry and science will discuss the opportunities and risks of these technologies.</p>
<p>Meeting of the Forest Directors</p>	<p>Wiesbaden from 26 -28 March 2007</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:534@bmelv.bund.de">534@bmelv.bund.de</a></p>	<p>Consultations will take place on the EU position for the 7th Session of the UN Forum on Forests and on the implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan</p>
<p>“Labelling for Better Animal Protection?”</p>	<p>Brussels on 28 March 2007</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:321@bmelv.bund.de">321@bmelv.bund.de</a></p>	<p>The Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection is holding this conference in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and with support from the EU Commission.</p> <p>The aim of the event is to enable experts and decision-makers from the fields of consumer protection, agriculture, animal protection and the food industry to exchange experiences on animal-protection labelling of products and to derive as specific conclusions and recommendations for further steps as possible.</p>

Conference of Directors of EU Paying Agencies; the Ministry will be represented at Ministerial or State Secretary level	Potsdam from 25 -27 April 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:615@bmelv.bund.de">615@bmelv.bund.de</a>	This conference will deal with three priority subject areas: It will focus on the implementation of Cross Compliance, in particular by paying agencies and technical authorities, simplification of the implementation of agricultural policy, and quality assurance of controls.
Conference of the Directors-General and Chief Veterinary Officers; participants will include State Secretary Lindemann	Dresden from 8 -11 May 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:324@bmelv.bund.de">324@bmelv.bund.de</a>	This conference will discuss new methods on controlling classical swine fever. Coordination work will also be carried out on the joint position for the OIE General Assembly, which is taking place in Paris at the end of May 2007.
Informal meeting of the Fisheries Directors; participants will include State Secretary Lindemann	Hamburg from 9 -10 May 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:621@bmelv.bund.de">621@bmelv.bund.de</a>	This meeting will deal with the effects of global warming on fish stocks.
Informal meeting of the Agriculture Ministers; participants will include Commissioner Fischer Boel and Federal Minister Seehofer	Mainz from 20 -22 May 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:612@bmelv.bund.de">612@bmelv.bund.de</a>	The informal meeting of EU Agriculture Ministers will focus on the subject of “Protecting the basis of life in the regions of Europe – for diversity, quality and innovation”
Meeting of the Directors-General and Chief Plant Health Officers	North Rhine-Westphalia from 12 -13 June 2007  Contact <a href="mailto:517@bmelv.bund.de">517@bmelv.bund.de</a>	The meeting of the Directors-General and Chief Plant Health Officers will discuss current phytosanitary control and plant health issues with regard to further harmonisation, and will include an excursion to show participants the phytosanitary system in Germany.