

**Advice 08-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: Evaluation of the 2009 FASFC analyses programme concerning the microbiology part and more in particular the phytosanitary aspects.**

This advice concerns the evaluation of the 2009 FASFC analyses programme concerning the microbiology part and more in particular the organisms harmful to plants or plant products (insects, bacteria, nematodes, moulds and viruses).

It is asked to the Scientific Committee to evaluate the following points of the analyses programme : i) the relevance of the matrix/hazard combinations, and the number of analyses ; ii) the relevance of the chosen sampling places ; iii) the relative intensity of the controls for the programmed contaminants in the food chain and iv) the way the experts of DG Control Policy have taken into account the existing sectorial sampling plans.

The Scientific Committee agrees globally with the chosen matrix/hazard combinations as well as with the choice of the sampling places. The Scientific Committee formulates nevertheless some recommendations of which the main ones deal 1) with the specificity of the objectives of the analyses programme of the plant sector compared to the foodstuffs, 2) with the fact that currently the analyses are essentially based on the legislation even though that the latter is not always completely in accordance to the field situation, 3) with the necessity to have a proactive approach through the setting up of a phytosanitary surveillance system and 4) with the importance of not limiting the analyses to the cases presenting symptoms because a lot of latent infections exist. Moreover, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the question concerning the sectorial sampling plans doesn't apply for the phytosanitary part of the analyses programme. In conclusion, the Scientific Committee underlines the value of the methodology used by the FASFC for the setting up of its analyses programme.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".