Dear Colleague,

This is to inform you that the German speaking working group for plant protection product analytics (DAPA) is planning to organize a collaborative trial on a method for determining low levels of toluene as relevant impurity in formulated products.

**Principle:** Toluene content is determined by headspace capillary gas chromatography (column with low-medium polarity stationary phase: 6% cyanopropylphenyl/94% dimethylpolysiloxane, e.g. DB-624, or equivalent, 30 m x 0.32 mm (i.d.), 1.8 μm film thickness), helium carrier gas and flame ionisation or mass spectrometric detection. Quantification is done by internal standardization.

**Scope:** It is intended to analyze 5 samples consisting of 5 formulations (EC, FS, SC, WG). Samples, analytical standard and internal standard will be supplied.

**Time schedule:** The collaborative trial is intended to be carried out during January – March 2014. Those who wish to participate should contact the organiser by 15 January 2014.

**Note:** Laboratories must have the necessary headspace instrumentation with the appropriate injection system - either a fixed transfer line to the GC or a gastight syringe (PAL-autosampler or equivalent). The trial is limited to maximum 15 participating laboratories because of the availability of samples. The selection is done based on the application order.

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Yours sincerely

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Secretary

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