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Subject: COST863 Joint Meeting of WG2 + WG3 on ‘Biotic and abiotic stress prevention in integrated berry fruit production’ 9-11 March 2009

Ancona, Italy

Dear Dr Albino Maggio

Following the action work program, we are submitting the application for the organization of the COST 863 Joint Meeting of WG2 + WG3 on **‘Biotic and abiotic stress prevention in integrated berry fruit production’** to be held at the AgroBioInstitute, Sofia, Bulgaria – from the 9-11 March 2009. This joint meeting will be organised by Dr. Violeta Kondakova from the AgroBioInstitute, Sofia, Bulgaria.

The objective of the joint meeting is to discuss developments in the field of biotic and abiotic stress prevention incl. biological pest and disease control and pesticide residue management. Different aspects will be treated such as:

- abiotic stress;
- biotic stress prevention;
- biological pest and disease control;
- pesticide residue management

To have a general international overview on the impact of stress factors on berry physiology and disease development the following expert is invited to give a presentation:

– **Dr. Jean-Pierre Privé**, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Boctouche, New Brunswick, Canada. **Reducing environmental stress in sustainable berry fruit production.** .

The outcome of the Joint Meeting is focused on the identification of the present knowledge on biotic and abiotic stress factors and the future requirements in the area of research to guarantee a sustainable berry production with high quality fruits. Definition of major themes and strategies for further research and collaborations in these fields are important.

Considering all these aspects, we are requesting the acceptance of the joint meeting program and the reimbursement of the invited speaker and 20 experts from COST 863 signatory countries.

Sincerely yours

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