

Ancona, 13/02/2009

Albino Maggio
COST Office
European Science Foundation
149 Avenue Louise
1050 Brussels BE

Subject: Application COST863 MC and WS 2009, Lisbon and Odemira (PT)

Dear Albino Maggio,

With reference to the minute of the COST 863 Management Committee, held in Huelva (SP) last 03 - 04 March 2008 and the electronic approval from the MC, herewith, I am submitting the application for the organization of the COST863 MC and WS on 'Defining needs of berry industry' to be held at Lisbon - Portugal, 19 - 21 April 2009, organized in collaboration with Dr. Pedro Oliveira, INRB-I.P., Oeiras, PT (email: pnbo@mail.telepac.pt). The venue of the MC meeting will be the INRB-I.P. meeting center in Oeiras (Lisbon), while the WS will be at the Odemira Meeting Center (Algarve).

The MC meeting will have the major aims to report on the activity carried out during the current year, to plan the activities related to the budget available until June 2009, and also to discuss and plan the activities for the new budget beyond June 2009. Furthermore, the program of the final Symposium at IHC2010 and the possibility to prepare a new COST proposal.

The Workshop on '*Defining needs of berry industries*' has the objective to expand the discussion and cooperation between the EU research network created by the COST863 and SMEs and companies operating at different level on berry industries (*Fragaria*, *Rubus*, *Ribes* and *Vaccinium*).

The workshop will have the aim to promote a discussion on the following topics:

1. The COST863 Euroberry contribution to EU berry research.
2. World perspective of berry industry.
3. Are there new research areas of interest for the berry industry?
4. Integration of research in berry industry: comparing EU and non EU realities.
5. What organization can be expected for future basic and applied research programs.
6. Researchers and industries brokerage event.

The WS will be followed by a visit to the local berry production industry.

All this discussion will be promoted by lectures of invited speakers identified for their competence in specific sectors of the berry industry.

Taking in account all these aspects, I am requesting the acceptance of the meeting program including the reimbursements of 32 MC delegates, one from each of the MoU signatory countries, of the delegate of HortResearch New Zealand and also of 4 experts selected to report of the activities carried out during their STSM. Furthermore, I request to

Prof. Bruno Mezzetti
Chairman COST863

accept the invitation of 15 experts representing different international institutions, including USDA, and companies operating in different sectors of the berry industry.

To support the local costs for the Meeting organization there is the request to accept also to allocate 2000 Euro to be transferred to the local organizer to support part of the costs for the local organization of the two meetings.

Sincerely yours



Bruno Mezzetti
Chairman of COST863