



## **SOPP update and meeting to discuss sustainable citrus supply into the EU**

### **SOPP (2-phenylphenol) EU MRL**

Following Cutting Edge No. 147 that highlighted the potential problems around the continuity of the SOPP citrus MRL in the EU, CGA is pleased to report that some progress has been made in this regard. As highlighted in that Cutting Edge article Regulation 304/2010 set a temporary MRL of 5.0 mg/kg that would be valid up until 30 September 2012 pending the submission of some additional studies. These studies were in fact submitted earlier in the year. In order to allow a proper re-evaluation of the MRL on the basis of Article 12 of Regulation 396/2005, the Commission is due to propose at its MRL Committee meeting, that the validity of the current MRL of 5.0 mg/kg be extended by two years.

### **Meeting to Discuss Sustainable Supply of Southern Hemisphere Citrus to the EU**

Producers have been asking CGA-CRI to help engage with EU retailers around pesticide residue requirements. Over the years various approaches have been used to try to engage with them. These efforts so far have been informative and whereas some good progress has been made, especially with UK retailers, there remain problematic issues, especially with mainland retailers.

The pressure retailers are under from consumer groups to reduce residues is real and understood, but it seems that more engagement is needed with the various stakeholders for them to understand the underlying problems that these residue requirements are causing at the production level. CGA are therefore inviting European citrus importers and retailers to a meeting in Brussels to discuss these issues and possible solutions. The Argentinean citrus producers will also participate in the discussion.

Please encourage your importer or retailer to attend this meeting. The attached invitation and agenda could be sent through to them so they will get an understanding of the programme for the day. The basic details are as follows:

Date: Tuesday 2 October 2012

Time: 10H00 to 12H00

Venue: Copa-Cogeca offices, Rue de Trèves 61, Brussels

So far we have received confirmation from a number of key importers and retailers and are expecting over 30 participants at the meeting. We trust this will be a productive process.

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