



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CENTER IN UKRAINE

PRESS RELEASE

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STCU/EU Visit to Ukraine to Discuss Biosafety/Biosecurity Issues

On 25-29 January 2010, the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) and officials from the EuropeAid Co-operation Office of European Commission will participate in official meetings in Kyiv and Simferopol (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine) on biosafety/ biosecurity issues relevant to Ukraine.

This visit seeks to further develop scientific collaboration between European Union and Ukraine in area of biological safety and control over especially dangerous pathogens. One of the anticipated outcomes of this expanded collaboration will be projects (proposed through STCU and involving the European Commission and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine) on improving physical protection systems so as to strengthen the levels of biosafety in those Ukrainian institutions working with especially dangerous pathogens.

Participating in these meetings will be the European Union experts' delegation, representatives of STCU, First Deputy Health Minister of Ukraine Alexander Bilovol, and officials of Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

On 26-28 January, the STCU-EU delegation plans to visit the Ukrainian Anti-Plague Station in Simferopol (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) to become familiar with the work of this organization, and to assess the station's biosafety/biosecurity needs for a possible EuropeAidCo/STCU project. During meetings with the specialists of Anti-Plague Station, issues of biosafety/biosecurity, good laboratory practices, and international biosafety/biosecurity standards will be discussed.

ABOUT STCU: The Science and Technology Center in Ukraine is an intergovernmental, non-profit organization created with the goal of aiding unemployed or underemployed scientists previously working on the development of weapons of mass destruction. The STCU was created and is governed by the "Agreement to Establish a Science and Technology Center in Ukraine" originally signed by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States of America in 1993. Subsequently, Sweden was replaced by the European Union in 1998 and Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Uzbekistan have also become signatories to the agreement. The STCU finances projects which convert the military know-how of the scientists of our recipient states into peaceful civilian applications. Other than regular projects, the STCU also works in a number of other spheres of activity, which include: Matchmaking, Promotional Missions, Seminars and Workshops, Partnership Projects, and Patenting Support.

For more information on the Center's activities please visit our website at <http://www.stcu.int>