

## Plant Health Symposium

Brussels, Belgium

15 May 2024

Brussels, 18 March 2024

Dear Madam/Sir,

It is my pleasure to invite you to our **symposium on plant health, titled 'Plant Health Without Borders: International collaboration to underpin policy at national, regional and international level'**. This symposium, hosted by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, will take place at the **Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences** in Brussels on **15 May 2024**. The symposium will also be livestreamed for remote participants.

Using the momentum of the International Day of Plant Health on 12 May 2024, the keynote speakers from the European Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention will emphasise the importance of collaboration in plant health policy. Building on the "One World, One Health" approach the Minister/BE Presidency will look beyond the borders of plant health and highlight its interconnections with human, environmental and animal health. On the scientific level, the symposium will focus on plant health networks and opportunities for collaboration and coordination. The added value, needs, and policy relevance of several international plant health networks will be put forward. The experiences of researchers will highlight the advantages of international collaboration, as research plays a key role in underpinning plant health policy and in developing scientific expertise and infrastructures in support of plant health and plant protection efforts. Finally, future challenges and ways to tackle these challenges will be debated. In this context, the EU Horizon Europe project EUPHRESO III will be presented, aiming to enhance national, regional and global phytosanitary research coordination through fit-for-purpose activities.

I kindly ask you to indicate your attendance via the [online registration platform](#) by 8 April 2024. As the number of seats in the auditorium is limited, you will be asked to indicate your preference for on-site or online attendance. We will let you know whether we can confirm your choice by 15 April 2024.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at [contractual.research@health.fgov.be](mailto:contractual.research@health.fgov.be).

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels or online.

Yours sincerely,

**Dirk Ramaekers**

Secretary-general of the Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment