



ICAAS Europe Reception

On 28th May, ICAAS European Chapter held a reception at the Cercle Royal Gaulois in Brussels (Belgium) to mark the registration of ICAAS as an international not-for-profit organization in Belgium by Royal Decree on the 18th of



March. The Reception was attended by representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, the food industry and independent experts. The guest list included the Director General of DG SANCO (EU Commission), Mr. R. Madelin; the head of Feed Unit DG SANCO, Mr. W. Penning; as well as diplomatic representatives to Brussels and several members of commercial sector involved with the amino acids.



(Venue) the Cercle Royal Gaulois

The President of ICAAS, Dr. M. D. Rogers made a brief presentation of the ICAAS and its mission to responsibly promote amino acids and their use by humans. Thereafter, Dr. M. Smriga (Ajinomoto Europe SAS) introduced some aspects of amino acid technology with a broad relevance to senior European regulators. He paid a specific attention to environmental and economic aspects of amino acid production and benefits of amino acids in dietary supply to both developing world and Europe. Indeed, the most recent WHO/FAO report on amino acids highlighted contemporary scientific trends away from the expensive, environmentally damaging production of protein for food and feed towards the targeted use of amino acids. This is a particularly important issue for developing regions, where the prices of staple foods, carbohydrates and proteins have risen significantly, and their quality in terms of amino acid supply has decreased. The presentations were finished with a very brief overview of safety of dietary amino acids, which remains a major task in which ICAAS plays a proactive role.



Dr. Michael D. Rogers,
President of ICAAS

What was the main message of the Reception for the European Regulator? Perhaps to regulate less and to regulate effectively (remembering the Santer dictum “*Agir moins pour agir mieux*”) setting clear targets is in the interests of all stakeholders; consumers, industry and authorities. In the case of amino acids, this could result in a lower hurdle to innovation in the production technologies, a higher support for R&D, scientifically-based decisions on the use of amino acids, and especially, specifications-based establishment of safety controls.

Thanks to a warm and friendly atmosphere the European ICAAS Chapter made a noticed entry on an already crowded Brussels’ associations’ map.