



## SRA-E BENELUX - Inaugural meeting

**Theme: New risks, better science, better governance?**

**14 March 2016, 10am-5pm**

**The meeting will be followed by a reception.**

Location: *UM Brussels Campus – in Central Brussels, Metro Montgomery Avenue de l'Armée 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium*

### **Keynote speakers:**

**Christianne Brusckke**, Chief Veterinary Officer, The Netherlands  
*Emerging risks, new challenges for science informed decisions*

**Monique Bosman**, Sr. Policy Advisor, IenM, The Netherlands  
*Explicitly Considering Safety*

**Michael Faure**, Maastricht University  
*Judge versus regulator in the regulation of uncertain risk*

**Rob Geert** – AVIV  
*Food safety Governance*

**Sybe Schaap**, Senator, Eerste Kamer (Upper House)  
*Risk politics and policy*

### **Want to present?**

Send your abstracts (**250 words maximum**) by **29 January 2015** to:  
[sraebenelux@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:sraebenelux@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Due to their topography, high population density and high level of industrialisation the Benelux countries stand out in Europe as a region exposed to numerous hazards that may impact on health and the environment. Experience of harm – from flooding to food contamination, from industrial disasters or zoonoses- has stimulated outstanding research in risk analysis as well as innovative management approaches. Although some risks are well known and managed, others are emerging and puzzling, requiring special attention and call for improvements. Due to their high degree of spatial and economic integration in the World Economy Benelux countries are particularly vulnerable to emerging systemic risks, from the knock-on effects of coastal flooding to the spreading of diseases. Some of these risks may be so large (both spatially and in time) that they require integrated scientific input, concerted efforts to tackle their consequences as well as appropriate governance structures to organise multi-stakeholder input. The complex and ambiguous nature of many emerging risks combined with declining levels of trust in Science and Government suggest that disagreements can arise over how to best cope with systemic risks and who will be responsible when things go wrong. In this category the amount of social trust in organised or formalised decision-making will be one of the major risk factors that may emerge in the next few years.

*This meeting is organised by the BENELUX chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis Europe. SRA-E: BENELUX brings together individuals and organisations interested in risk assessment, risk management and risk communication in Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg*