

Parma, 20 March 2009

Networks between Member States and EFSA

Risk Assessment Directorate including the Scientific Committee and Advisory Forum Unit		
Name of the network	Objective of the network	Unit within EFSA coordinating the network
Advisory Forum	EFSA's Advisory Forum connects EFSA with the national food safety authorities of all 27 EU Member States. Its members represent each national body responsible for risk assessment in the EU, with observers from Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the European Commission. Members use the Forum to advise EFSA on scientific matters, its work programme and priorities, and to address emerging risk issues as early as possible.	SCAF
Advisory Forum Representatives on Animal Health	Network between Member States and EFSA, with observers from Norway, Iceland and Switzerland, on risk assessment of animal health and welfare.	SCAF/AHAW
Advisory Forum Representatives on Plant Health	Network between Member States and EFSA, with observers from Norway, Iceland and Switzerland, on risk assessment of plant health.	SCAF/PLH
Microbiological Risk Assessment Network	Network of contact points involved in microbiological risk assessment (MRA), to exchange scientific data and information on national MRA and contribute to harmonisation of methodologies on risk assessment.	BIOHAZ
BSE/TSE Network	Network of currently 15 Member States (more nominations welcome), European Commission, international organisation on periodic updates on BSE/TSE.	BIOHAZ
CEF EFSAnet	Provision of information regarding applications for authorisation of food contact materials under Framework Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004, via password protected site.	CEF
CEF EFSAnet	Provision of information regarding applications for authorisation of smoke flavourings under Regulation (EC) No 2065/2003, via password protected site.	CEF
Feed Additives ScienceNet	Exchange of information regarding applications for authorisation of feed additives under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, via password protected site with approximately 45 users from Member States.	FEEDAP

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GMO EFSAnet	Exchange of information regarding applications for authorisation of GMOs under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, via password site with approximately 250 members from all Member States.	GMO
Delegation of environmental risk assessment network	Delegation of the initial environmental risk assessment of applications under Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, including scope cultivation. 3 meetings are scheduled with each Member State for each application.	GMO
GMO regular technical meetings	Annual/biannual technical meetings focusing on different technical topics with relevant experts from National Competent Authorities from the 27 Member States (usually nominated in conjunction with the Advisory Forum).	GMO
NDA EFSAnet	Exchange of information regarding applications for authorisation of health claims under Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006, via password protected site. The same approach is foreseen when the revised Novel Food Regulation comes into force.	NDA

Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate		
Name of the network	Objective of the network	Unit within EFSA coordinating the network
Expert group on food consumption data	Expert group for the harmonization of food consumption surveys and planning a future Pan-European food consumption survey.	DATEX
Expert group on chemical occurrence data	Harmonisation of chemical occurrence data collection in food and feed.	DATEX
Pesticide Steering Committee	Exchange information and best practices, develop and implement projects in order to improve the efficiency and the planning of the peer review of active substances.	PRAPeR
MRL official contact points	Official contact points for the designated national authorities to coordinate cooperation with the European Commission, EFSA, Member States, manufacturers, producers and growers in accordance with Article 38 of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005.	PRAPeR

Scientific Cooperation and Assistance Directorate		
Name of the network	Objective of the network	Unit within EFSA coordinating the network
Focal Point network	Focal Points act as an interface between EFSA and the different national food safety authorities, research institutes, consumers and other EFSA-related stakeholders. The key objective for Focal Points is to support their Advisory Forum members. This includes ensuring the exchange of scientific information between EFSA and the Member States, building networks, and raising EFSA's scientific visibility. In addition, Focal Points assist in populating EFSA's Expert Database.	SCO
Article 36 network	The Article 36 network lists competent organisations, which in principle may undertake work on behalf of EFSA in the form of grants. Networking with these competent organisations enables EFSA to use a wider spectrum of scientific excellence in Europe, which helps EFSA respond more effectively and flexibly to its growing workload.	SCO
Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection	Members from all the Member States, Norway and Switzerland and observers from OIE, WHO, Turkey and Croatia. The Task Force assists EFSA in all matters related to coordination and harmonisation of the data collection on zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks as well as related data analyses.	ZOONOSES

Communications Directorate		
Name of the network	Objective of the network	Unit within EFSA coordinating the network
Advisory Forum Communications Working Group	Members from EU Members States and observers from EFTA countries, PHARE countries and the European Commission. The Working Group works with the communications departments of the national food safety agencies and the European Commission to build a collaborative and informed approach to communicating risks in the food chain and to promote coherence of food safety messages across Europe.	Press Office