



## Final Minutes

### 73rd MEETING OF THE EFSA ADVISORY FORUM

#### **Meeting details**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Venue: House of Nobility / Helsinki

Meeting hours: 09H00 – 17H30 (18.09.2019)

09H00 – 12H30 (19.09.2019)

Members	
Austria (AT)	Klemens Fuchs
Belgium (BE)	Frederic Denauw
Bulgaria (BG)	Iliyan Kostov
Croatia (HR)	Darja Sokolić
Cyprus (CY)	Stelios Yiannopoulos
Czech Republic (CZ)	Jitka Götzová
Denmark (DK)	Flemming Bager
Estonia (EE)	Piret Priisalu
Finland (FI)	Pia Mäkelä
France (FR)	Moez Sanaa
Germany (DE)	Nicole Gollnick
Greece (EL)	Eirini Tsigarida
Hungary (HU)	Ákos Bernard Józwiak
Iceland (IS)	Jón Gíslason
Ireland (IE)	Wayne Anderson
Italy (IT)	Alessandra Perrella
Latvia (LV)	Vadims Bartkevičs
Lithuania (LT)	Jurgita Bakasėnienė
Luxembourg (LU)	Marc Fischer
Malta (MT)	Ingrid Borg
Netherlands (NL)	Dick T.H.M. Sijm
Norway (NO)	Cecilie Rolstad Denby
Poland (PL)	Joanna Gajda-Wyrebek
Portugal (PT)	Pedro Gaspar
Romania (RO)	Monica Neagu
Slovenia (SI)	Urška Blaznik
Slovak Republic (SK)	Marica Kuzmiak Theiszová
Spain (ES)	Ana Canals Caballero
Sweden (SE)	Per Bergman



<b>Observers &amp; Guest Participants</b>	
Albania (AL)	Pamela Radovani
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Dzemil Hajric
Montenegro (ME)	Vesna Dakovic
Republic of North Macedonia (MK)	Zoran Atanasov
Serbia (RS)	Tamara Bošković
Turkey (TR)	Serap Hanci
Switzerland (CH)	Vincent Dudler
European Commission (EC)	Anastasia Alvizou
European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)	Luisa Consolini
European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)	Mike Rasenberg
European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)	George Fotakis
Netherlands (RIVM)	Jacob van Klaveren
Germany (BfR)	Roland Solecki (VC)
Denmark (DTU)	Julie Boberg (VC)
France (ANSES)	Amélie Crépet (VC)
Finland (Finnish Food Authority)	Johanna Suomi
Finland (Finnish Food Authority)	Pirkko Tuominen

<b>EFSA Representatives</b>
Bernhard URL: Chair
Juliane Kleiner: Co-Chair
Guilhem de Seze: Co-Chair
Barbara Gallani: Co-Chair
Marta Hugas
Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (VC)
Andrea Gervelmeyer (VC)
Jane Richardson
Bruno Dujardin
Ilias Papatryfon
Caroline Merten
Mary Gilsean
Advisory Forum Secretariat: Sérgio Potier Rodeia

<b>Apologies</b>	
Kosovo*	Valdet Gjinovci
United Kingdom (UK)	Jesus Alvarez-Pinera

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

## **1. Welcome by Director-General of the Finnish Food Authority**

The floor was given to Mr. Antti-Jussi Oikarinen, Director-General of the Finnish Food Authority, who welcomed the participants to the meeting and to Helsinki, Finland.



## 2. Opening of the meeting

Bernhard Url, Chair of the meeting welcomed participants to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Advisory Forum (AF) meeting. Apologies were noted from Kosovo. The Chair welcomed Ms. Jaana Husu Kallio - Chair of EFSA's Management Board; and Anastasia Alvizou, representative from the European Commission (DG-SANTE). The newly appointed AF Members from Norway, Cecilie Rolstad Denby, and France, Moez Sanaa, were welcomed by the Chair. The Chair announced that on 12.09.2019 the UK AF Member Jesus Alvarez-Pinera circulated an official message from the UK government which prevented him to attend this meeting.

## 3. Address by EFSA's Management Board Chair

The floor was given to Ms. Jaana Husu-Kallio who delivered a welcome address to participants of the meeting.

## 4. Adoption of Agenda and action points from last meeting

The Chair asked the plenary if there were any new items to be included in the draft Agenda. LV asked for the addition of the item "BIOR 10th Anniversary Scientific Symposium"; DE asked to add two topics on "The use of sulphur dioxide for preservation of wine" and "1st Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium"; HR asked for the addition of the item "3rd Croatian Food Safety Risk Assessment Conference". All items were included under AOB, except the one on sulphur dioxide, to be addressed during Agenda item 10, on risk assessment activities. The plenary adopted the Agenda for the meeting. The Chair informed that 8 out of 11 action points from the last AF meeting have been implemented and that 3 are ongoing. The Chair noted that minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> AF meeting were published on EFSA's website on 12.08.2019.

### ■ 4.1 – Update on the AF Discussion Group on Capacity Building

Nicole Gollnick (DE) took the floor on behalf of the Advisory Forum Discussion Group on Capacity Building (AFDGCB), briefly reporting on recent activities of the DG and on progress made with regards to defining, in the ToR, a business case for a Master Degree on risk assessment; presenting first results from "Data collection survey on postgraduate studies in risk assessment in the food chain" carried out from June 2019 to August 2019; highlighting the extension of survey deadline until end of September 2019; and the intention to present a more detailed analysis of survey results during the AF meeting in November 2019. The Chair highlighted the importance of the work of this DG in support of the provisions concerning sustainability under the new Transparency Regulation.

**Action 1:** *AF Members to reply and/or further support the dissemination of the "Data collection survey on postgraduate studies in risk assessment in the food chain", for which the deadline was extended by end of September 2019.*



## 5. Recent EFSA activities

### ■ 5.1 - FSAI 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wayne Anderson (IE) updated AF Members on the event which took place in Dublin on 21-22.08.2019. An international conference exploring the challenges and opportunities facing the safety of global food supply was the setting to mark the Food Safety of Ireland's (FSAI) 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Chair concluded that it was a very well-organised, highly successful and widely covered media event.

### ■ 5.2 - Joint workshop to strengthen crisis preparedness and communication

Andrea Gervelmeyer and Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (on VC) presented the outcome of this joint BfR/EFSA workshop. The 3-day event was held at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Berlin (28-30.08.2019) and was jointly organised by EFSA, BfR and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL). The event brought together risk assessors, managers and communicators from 5 MS (BE, DE, FR, LU, NL), EFSA and the European Commission. All workshop material will be published in the Knowledge Junction (Zenodo)<sup>1</sup> in order to be made available for MSs to organise similar trainings at national level.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and inquired MSs to express their interest in hosting EFSA's joint crisis preparedness event in 2020. ES asked to clarify the conditions for hosting this workshop, in particular the financial part; confirmed the willingness to hosting a future workshop, subject to the above requested information; addressed the question to DG SANTE and BfR regarding the adoption of FoodChainLab as a working tool at EU level (as currently it is used only by 4 MSs); and informed about the FoodChainLab training to be organised in ES at the beginning of October. DE highlighted the importance of a rapid response and dissemination of concerted messages to consumers during crisis times; suggested that EFSA should play a stronger role in coordination during multinational food safety crises; and replied to ES that FoodChainLab is a free tool to be used by any MS, confirming that BfR provides trainings for interested parties. Andrea clarified that countries that wish to host the workshop should in general provide for the infrastructure and other logistical arrangements, highlighting that the preparation process takes nearly half a year – more details can be provided to interested parties. IT expressed their willingness to host the workshop, which will be sent to EFSA in writing. DG SANTE responded to ES that FoodChainLab tool was developed by BfR for use by national authorities for tracing-back exercises though it cannot be imposed for cross border trace-back controls, where DG SANTE is highly involved. NL thanked BfR and EFSA for the excellent preparation of the workshop and stressed the important lesson learned from it that transboundary food safety issues require close communication between the risk assessors of the neighbouring countries, before risk management takes over and may decide upon poor substantiation of the issue in the different countries. The Chair noted that the FoodChainLab was developed by BfR under a Framework Partnership Agreement with EFSA and that, though not prescriptive, MSs are encouraged to promote it and use it.

**Action 2** – AF Members to express interest in hosting future joint crisis preparedness events.

<sup>1</sup> <https://zenodo.org/communities/efsa-kj/?page=1&size=20>



## 6. Update on the implementation of the new Transparency Regulation in the food chain

Guilhem de Seze shortly briefed the plenary on the current plans to implement the new Transparency Regulation. The information regarding EFSA's preparatory work was divided per Regulation pillar, i.e. Transparency and Confidentiality; Scientific Value; Governance; and Engagement & Risk Communication. Anastasia Alvizou (DG SANTE) provided an update on the implementation of the new Transparency Regulation in the food chain, highlighting that successful implementation of the new rules goes "hand to hand" with a successful completion of a new MFF proposal. Anastasia further highlighted that EFSA and DG SANTE are working closely together and that a joint implementation plan has been developed with appropriate coordination mechanisms set so to ensure the delivery of results in time.

DE raised the question on whether the information to be included in the database of studies (commissioned or carried out by food business operators to support an application or notification in relation to which Union law contains provisions for the Authority to provide a scientific output, including a scientific opinion) concerns only information related to studies to be carried out as of the date the new Transparency Regulation applies (27.03.2019) or whether it also applies to past studies. DG SANTE clarified that it applies to studies to be carried out as of the date the new Transparency Regulation applies (27.03.2019). DE further noted that the current German translation of Regulation 2019/1381 seems to indicate that the studies to be included in the database also includes past studies. The DG SANTE representative took note of this comment and promised to bring it back to the attention of DG SANTE in Brussels. DE asked to be notified in written on the correct interpretation of this provision. ES asked DG SANTE to clarify in which working groups it is foreseen to discuss the General Plan on Risk Communication and how such activity will be coordinated with the Communication Experts Network (CEN). DG SANTE replied that EFSA's work in risk communication is well advanced and that DG SANTE is very much interested in the views of the CEN network which will feed into the designing of this plan.

## 7. Data Collection

### ■ 7.1 - Update on TF on data collection and data modelling

Ákos Józwiak (HU) presented an update of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AF TF on Data Collection and Modelling (AFTFDCEM) which took place on 17.09.2019. The interim report on the activities of the AFTFDCEM was submitted ahead of the meeting for discussion and for endorsement.

The NL expressed support to the TF activities; raised the question on how to best implement all recommendations in the report at EU level; and informed that, at national level the initiative started to bring data scientists and risk assessment experts together so to enable connecting their work. DE stressed the need to train the next generation of data scientists, advising the inclusion of this topic in the curricula for EU-FORA fellows and in any future Master degree in risk assessment; and made a concrete proposal to include this topic on the Agenda of an event to be organised in Germany in 2020 on capacity building. FR expressed the view that, experience gained through working with US FDA, confirmed that



it is possible to have a successful project in a short term, and that risk assessors should, in general, have knowledge on data science.

The Chair encouraged strengthening the link between the work of the AFTFDCDM with the one of EFSA's Data Collection Scientific Networks, through which additional resources could be made available to best implement report recommendations. Mary Gilson (EFSA) noted that EFSA, jointly with MSs, should strive to influence legal acts implementing data standardisation. IE proposed to create a roadmap, illustrating how to achieve the goal; to include the glossary of data terms in the final report; and to consider the possibility to translate the report in other languages in order to reach a wider audience. The Chair closed discussions, concluding that the interim report was endorsed in plenary and that final improvements and follow-up actions should be carried out.

**Action 3** – *AF Task Force on Data Collection and Data Modelling to:*

- a. *Complete and share the final interim report on the basis of recommendations made during discussions in plenary (where possible);*
- b. *Liaise with the AF Discussion Group on Capacity Building on current and future needs for data science competences in the EU risk assessment community;*
- c. *Liaise with the EFSA Data Collection Scientific Networks to share the outcomes of the Interim Report on the Activities of the Task Force endorsed at the AF meeting.*

■ **7.2 - EFSA/BfR Workshop - RUEDIS**

On behalf of DE (in particular of Roland Solecki, from BfR), Bruno Dujardin reported on main outcomes of the Technical EFSA - BfR Workshop, organised the day before the AF meeting. The RUEDIS project is driven by the need for structured data and interoperability to facilitate risk assessment. The Chair complimented this good initiative.

■ **7.3 - Making best use of structured data**

Luisa Consolini (ECHA) and Mike Rasenberg (ECHA) presented ECHA's work in this field. ECHA has reached a significant milestone in completing all three phases of the REACH chemical registration requirements. For the REACH registration process, applicants used IUCLID to compile their technical dossiers, a tool that uses the OECD harmonised templates to receive chemical safety information. ECHA has also been collaborating with the OECD to facilitate the exchange of chemical safety information globally. ECHA is now opening a new chapter - on the protection of human health and the environment against harmful chemicals. ECHA acknowledges the lack of important safety information in some areas and is working with a wide range of stakeholders to fill these information gaps. Jane Richardson shortly briefed the plenary about the ongoing pilot with ECHA on the use of IUCLID for pesticide dossiers.

The Chair thanked ECHA colleagues for the presentation delivered. The NL questioned how it is foreseen to facilitate the exchange of chemical safety information globally and as well in different domains (connecting all relevant systems internationally), considering existing differences in the same working fields. SE asked to clarify how structured data formats are related with EFSA's MATRIX project. Roland Solecki (BfR) congratulated EFSA on the current pilot and expressed the hope that IUCLID can be applicable at an international scale. ECHA explained that a highest level of transparency is achieved if the current gaps in REACH can be addressed; clarified that the grouping of substances is done not only on the basis of the



identity of substances, but also taking into account the full composition of chemicals; and expressed the view that IUCLID might be the cloud-based vehicle for international exchanges. Jane Richardson clarified that the MATRIX project is ongoing and that the changes introduced by the Transparency Regulation are the key drivers to move forward.

## 8. EFSA's Work Planning and Strategy

### ■ 8.1 Draft 2020 Work Programme (including MS input)

Ilias Papatryfon provided an overview on EFSA's workplan for 2020-2023. Reference was made to the recent survey aimed at collecting input from AF Members on main priority areas of work for the coming year(s). The survey focused on pre-selected areas of work based on the AF input to EFSA's work plan for 2019 and as well the 2017 feedback survey; EFSA Strategy 2020 gap analysis; the Management Board recommendations on EFSA's external evaluation 2018; the 2018 EFSA annual quality management review; and the ongoing work for setting food safety research priorities. A background document detailing the results of the survey was shared with AF Members, who were asked to provide feedback on any follow-up actions on the identified top 19 priority areas of work. Ilias further mentioned that the Programming Document 2020-2023 will mention of the priorities identified as key areas for cooperation with MSs.

SE asked if any actions are anticipated for the low-ranked priority areas of work. NL enquired whether there was any link between this exercise and the EU Research Agenda. DE noted relatively low score for societal impact regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR); stressed that AMR is of such high concern globally that we need to give respective attention to risk communication with all stakeholders – also the general public. ES suggested comparing the results from the Delphi study with the current ranking of priority areas of work with the aim to identify future capacity building initiatives. Ilias clarified that low-ranking priority areas of work will still be considered e.g. within the context of the EU-RAA activity. He further clarified that the workplan consultation and the EU Research Agenda exercise are separate exercises, though interlinked (e.g. the ongoing work for setting food safety research priorities has supported the building up of the recent survey). Sérgio Potier Rodeia further clarified that a gap analysis among priority areas identified in the Delphi study and those reported by MSs during multi-annual workplan consultation exercises is anticipated by end of 2020, when the final results of the EU-RAA exercise will be known.

**Action 4** - AF Members invited to look into the background document concerning the draft 2020 work programme and provide feedback on any follow-up actions on the identified top 19 priority areas of work by Friday 11.10.2019.

### ■ 8.2 - Update on EFSA Strategy 2021-2027

Ilias Papatryfon presented the main steps adopted during recent environmental scan. The exercise led to the identification of three main strategic clusters: (1) Food Systems & Risk Assessment; (2) Knowledge, Data, People & Funding; and (3) Society and Risk Communication. Ilias further highlighted the upcoming AF consultation as a next step towards setting strategic directions for EFSA, to be carried out via a survey, highlighting its key structure and main draft questions.

ES expressed the lack of a link to a midterm strategy on sustainable development goals; and for nutritional issues. Barbara Gallani replied that diet, nutrition and obesity issues



were part of the environmental scanning, agreeing that these aspects could be more prominent and visible.

**Action 5** - AF Members to provide input to the EFSA Strategy 2021-2027 (a separate email will be sent during the course of October).

## 9. Thematic Discussion: Combined Exposure to Multiple Chemicals

### ■ 9.1 - Introduction

Juliane Kleiner briefly introduced the thematic discussion on Combined Exposure to Multiple Chemicals, which aimed at enabling the exchange of information on the subject and possibly agree on the setting of a joint draft Roadmap for future activities.

### ■ 9.2 - EFSA activities

Bruno Dujardin provided an update on EFSA's work in this area, with a focus on the pesticides domain. Reference was made to EFSA's recent public consultations on two cumulative risk assessments of pesticides (thyroid and nervous system). Experience gained on these assessments revealed that a stronger project governance and a leaner approach for the development of cumulative assessment groups are required.

The NL stressed the importance of this topic, noting the need for open source initiatives as there is quite some work to be done in this domain. The NL expressed concerns regarding the 99,9% percentile of the exposure distribution, which was used as a threshold for regulatory consideration despite being affected by many uncertainties. DG SANTE raised the question whether the IUCLID could help in future work on this domain. Bruno Dujardin clarified that the percentual value mentioned was set by the risk managers; and that data in structured format could facilitate work on cumulative risk assessment.

### ■ 9.3 - ECHA activities

George Fotakis (ECHA) presented ECHA activities on combined exposures to multiple chemicals, providing the overview of terminology for combined exposures, regulatory elements in the field of combined exposures and as well ECHA examples and guidance.

### ■ 9.4 - EuroMix Project

Jacob van Klaveren (RIVM) debriefed AF Members of the main outcomes of the EuroMix project, led by RIVM. EuroMix is an innovation project. EuroMix consortium includes 22 partners from 17 MSs. SL reported about their involvement in this project and great benefits achieved for the country. HR noted their participation in this project and expressed interest to take part in future initiatives. The Chair raised the question on how to best bring the results of this innovative project funded by DG-RTD into the regulatory environment. Jacob van Klaveren clarified that there should be better interaction between innovation projects and the regulatory frameworks. The tools and methods resulting developed under the innovation projects should be considered when defining the regulatory assessment process but, once the regulatory process is set up, the innovation tools need to be adjusted accordingly.





## ■ 9.5 – MS activities

### ■ 9.5A - Chemical mixtures calculator

Julie Boberg (DK-DTU) provided an overview on Denmark's activities on chemical mixtures. The presentation focused on a tool/database named chemical mixtures / cocktail effect calculator which serves for pragmatic mixture risk assessment. The exposure data from EFSA and Danish dietary intake was collected. Final data collection will be completed by fall 2019, while publication and online use is anticipated for beginning of 2020. Juliane Kleiner asked whether any priority criteria was applied for selecting the organs; and whether EFSA reports for the toxicity data were taken from the open database OpenFoodTox. Julie Boberg replied that they had a very broad focusing, thus no prioritisation was made in order to not include some effects. Julie also added that the OpenFoodTox database was used as well as information from specific EFSA reports.

### ■ 9.5B - Challenges in assessing combined exposure to chemicals in Finland

Johanna Suomi (FI) presented the Finnish activities in this area. Most studies on combined exposure to chemicals have been done on pesticides, but to protect consumers' health, also other chemicals (heavy metals and other contaminants, food additives etc.) and their combinations should be assessed in the future. Johanna further mentioned that a European open-source database of toxicological data would aid scientists and risk assessors in finding relevant data, thanking EFSA for having opened the OpenFoodTox database.

### ■ 9.5C - ANSES activities on combined exposure assessment to multiple chemicals

Amélie Crépet (FR) presented an overview of ANSES activities in this area. The plenary was informed about FR risk assessment activities on chemical mixtures and on approaches for grouping chemicals into mixtures. Amélie further highlighted the need of data sharing, namely toxicological and epidemiological results for mixtures and the need to improve their use in risk assessment.

### ■ 9.5D - BfR activities : EuroMix

Nicole Gollnick (DE) presented the input of two departments of the BfR to the EuroMix project. During this project, the BfR conducted outcome pathway-driven analyses and the Institute undertook the analysis of the current legal framework for risk assessments of substance mixtures and their methods. On this basis, recommendations for the improvement of the risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals regarding a harmonised implementation in regulatory risk assessment and management were drafted.

## ■ Discussion

The Chair opened the floor for discussion, inviting participants to raise questions to presenters, comment on priorities and share ideas for future joint work. The Chair noted the example of US FDA research system and its way for translating innovative ideas into the regulatory framework and asked the plenary what conditions are needed for carrying a joint work at EU level. DE noted different project financing mechanisms at national level; and the aspect of visibility and leadership, generally DE highly supports the EuroMix activities and is interested in future collaborative work. The NL recalled the micro- and nano-plastic activities, which illustrated that different efforts could be combined. DK raised the idea to bring experts together for agreeing on common roadmap which would set the way forward on this theme. The Chair confirmed that a more detailed proposal on the topic



will be brought forward for discussion during the 74<sup>th</sup> AF meeting, asking for MSs volunteers for preparing a first draft roadmap. IT provided information on a national survey carried out in preparation of this thematic discussion on combined exposure to multiple chemicals, including a summary of all activities done within the last three years in Italy. The IT delegation also informed that they will share the results of this survey with EFSA.

**Action 6** - EFSA to prepare, in collaboration with DE, DK, FI, FR and NL, a proposal for a high-level roadmap on Combined Exposure to Multiple Chemicals, to be presented at the 74<sup>th</sup> AF meeting.

## 10. Risk Assessment activities

### ■ 10.1 – Risk assessment activities in the Finnish Food Authority (FFA)

Pirkko Tuominen (FI) briefed the plenary about current risk assessment activities in Finland. Pirkko noted that these activities started back in 1999 and are currently carried out by 13-20 researchers covering all the fields of FFA, depending on funding availability.

### ■ 10.2 - Risk assessment activities in the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Cecilie Rolstad Denby (NO) presented the risk assessment activities of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM), highlighting specific ongoing risk assessments: total BHT exposure from foods, personal care products and indoor dust – the use of project protocols; and a risk assessment on humpback salmon - VKM and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

### ■ 10.3 - Food safety risks associated with the circular economy; insects as feed and changing flows in the feed chain

Dick Sijm (NL) presented a compilation of two risk assessments carried out by the Dutch Office of Risk Assessment & Research and related to circular economy and increasing re-use of (former) waste, in particular: former feedstuff as food for insects; and non-edible plant parts no longer source for feed but for protein or energy. The key questions arising from these studies concern the food safety risks involved. The assessment will be released in the coming month and will be translated into English.

DK thanked Dick for this presentation, expressing interest in future collaboration on the topic. HU highlighted the relevance of the topic, stressing the need for methodological tools and advising to focus more on this area. FI raised the question if animal disease aspects have been considered in the studies; and if products due in terms of use-by-date can be utilised as feed. Guilhem De Seze briefed that EFSA currently assesses 10 dossiers on the use of insects as foodstuffs and that a first EFSA opinion is expected by the end of this year. In its reply to questions raised, the NL welcomed the DK collaboration; noted that animal health issues were taken into consideration on the studies, specifying in certain cases for the need of heat treatment; while aspects related to use-by-date of products were not addressed. CZ informed the plenary about upcoming national veterinary legislation on the growth of insects for human consumption; noting that national GHP for insects for human consumption were recently published recently; and asking for cooperation and knowledge sharing on this topic. On a wider methodological context, DE requested to bring back to the AF meeting an update on the Prometheus project.



**Action 7** - EFSA to provide on an upcoming AF meeting an update on the Prometheus project.

■ **10.4-EFSA mandates; 10.5-MS RA plans; 10.6-Upcoming public consultations**

Juliane Kleiner and Guilhem de Seze updated the plenary on recent EFSA mandates, MS RA plans and upcoming public consultations. Juliane Kleiner highlighted 2 EFSA mandates: one on non-monotonic dose response; and mandate on Rift Valley Fever. In the area of regulated products reference, among other, to an internal mandate to review the scientific basis to derive the uncertainty factor to establish a health-based guidance value for copper – a mandate triggered by the different uncertainty factors applied by SCF and the Pesticides Peer-Review resulting in different HBGV.

On MS risk assessment plans, Juliane Kleiner expressed interest on the perchlorate risk assessment from FR; the abrin risk assessment from DE; the IT risk assessment on the role of fish products on the transmission of toxoplasmosis. From the overview table shared for the meeting, Guilhem De Seze expressed his interest in 7 MS RA activities, to be followed up with the different MS on a bilateral basis. DK asked whether other MSs have experience on carbon footprints of diets, expressing interest for collaborative work. SE and NO commented that discussions on carbon footprints in diets are taking place in their countries expressing the wish to collaborate with DK. IE expressed interest on the FR risk assessment on risks related to the consumption of food supplements containing turmeric; and on the ES risk assessment on risks associated with the consumption of food supplements containing curcumin as an ingredient; asking whether the risk assessments will be published in English. ES replied that all scientific opinions of AEOSAN are published on the website and are available in English. FR will provide information in written. IT will provide information to EFSA upon written request.

Nicole Gollnick (DE), upon request of DE Ministry, expressed interest on whether EFSA's 2016 opinion on the use of sulphur dioxide as additive in wine will be impacted by the current ongoing re-classification by ECHA. Guilhem De Seze replied that a physical meeting with ECHA on this topic is foreseen in the coming months.

## 11. Engagement & Communications update

Barbara Gallani provided participants with an update on recent engagement and communication activities, including media highlights and high-profile communications occurred in the past quarter. Barbara noted that EFSA's Management Board recommendations were taken on board for a more proactive engagement with media. Barbara mentioned the systematic use of pre-defined criteria to decide which scientific opinions should be developed into communication products, beyond the EFSA Journal, e.g. the DRV tool, web stories, Plain Language Summaries. The first part of the year was intense for EFSA's international cooperation activities, which included a FAO conference in Rome, a visit from the African Union, and EFSA's visit to IARC, as well to Canada and the USA. Barbara also noted that EFSA is currently preparing an information sheet and other materials for the newly elected MEPs and Commissioners to introduce EFSA's work and its role in the food system. Finally, Barbara thanked BfR for hosting the CEN meeting in Berlin on 21-22.10.2019.



## 12. Any Other Business

### ■ 12.1 - Outcome of the REACH2 project on emerging chemicals

Caroline Merten presented in plenary the main outcomes of the REACH2 project on emerging chemicals. The project aimed at applying a procedure for the identification of potential emerging chemical risks in the food chain to substances registered under the REACH Regulation that was previously developed and tested in a pilot study (REACH 1). Potential interested collaborators (European and international) for the next phase of this project have already been contacted since the publication of project results. A screening approach in food, and possibly in the environment, of the prioritised substances is now proposed as a follow up project by EFSA.

LV expressed interest in collaboration on this topic, raising the question on the occurrence of biodegradation, which for several compounds could generate others even more toxic. SE questioned whether this topic will be discussed at the EREN network meeting in November in order to best select the country delegate. Caroline Merten replied that biodegradation will be looked into at a next stage of the project; and that the outcome of the project will be presented at the EREN and Chemical Data Collection Networks. ES suggested to copy FPs on these exchanges to ensure an adequate flow of information at national level.

**Action 8** - AF members, supported by FPs, to:

- a. Liaise with the respective members of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection and inform EFSA about any occurrence data (or plans to screen) in food/feed and/or environment on any substance included in the priority list of the supplementary material on emerging chemicals published in the EFSA External Scientific Report on Applying a Tested Procedure for the Identification of Potential Emerging Chemical Risks in the Food Chain to the Substances Registered under REACH - REACH2<sup>2</sup>. Focus should be given to those substances among the 212 priority substances for which no EFSA evaluation has been done yet (info to be sent to [caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu)).
- b. Express interest on a follow up project of REACH2 (expressions of interest to be sent to [caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu)).

### ■ 12.2 - European workshop to discuss the state-of-the-art in risk ranking of hazards in foods

Per Bergman (SE) presented an upcoming European workshop that stems from a follow-up action from the ED country visit in 2016. The two-day workshop will be organised in Uppsala, SE, on 05-06.05.2020 and aims to present the results of the joint FI/SE project on "Evidence-based risk ranking of chemical and microbiological hazards in food". FR expressed their interest in participating in the workshop.

<sup>2</sup> <https://zenodo.org/record/2613616#.XYu-bUYzbD4>



### ■ 12.3 - 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium

Nicole Gollnick (DE) provided an overview of the 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium, which was a successful example of collaboration at an international scale in support of further developing the food safety structure and capacities in the Latin-American region. Marta Hugas represented EFSA and participated as a keynote speaker. Pedro Portugal Gaspar (PT) and Ana Canals Caballero (ES) participated as speaker, panel member and facilitator.

### ■ 12.4 - BIOR 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scientific Symposium

Vadims Bartkevičs (LV) delivered 1<sup>st</sup> announcement about upcoming Symposium which will be organised on 30-31 January 2020 in Riga, LV and invited AF Members to participate in this solemn Symposium.

### ■ 12.5 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Croatian Food Safety Risk Assessment Conference

Darja Sokolić (HR) announced a risk assessment conference to occur in Osijek, HR, on 16-17.10.2019. The event will be organised back-to-back with EFSA's Autumn School, mainly targeted to representatives from IPA countries.

### ■ 12.6 - Upcoming AF meetings

Sergio Potier Rodeia informed the plenary that the next AF meeting will take place in Parma on 27-28.11.2019, providing also information on upcoming AF meetings during 2020.

## End of meeting

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking Finland and the Finnish AF Member for hosting the 73<sup>rd</sup> AF meeting. The Chair also thanked all AF representatives, the EC, and ECHA and other external participants for their important contributions to discussions, as well as EFSA Colleagues in Parma for supporting the meeting.



## LIST OF ACTION ITEMS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	AF Members	Reply and/or further support the dissemination of the "Data collection survey on postgraduate studies in risk assessment in the food chain", for which the deadline was extended by end of September 2019
Action 2	AF Members	Express interest in hosting future joint crisis preparedness events.
Action 3	TF on Data Collection and Data Modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Complete and share the final interim report on the basis of recommendations made during discussions in plenary (where possible)</li> <li>b. Liaise with the AF Discussion Group on Capacity Building on current and future needs for data science competences in the EU risk assessment community</li> <li>c. Liaise with the EFSA Data Collection Scientific Networks to share the outcomes of the Interim Report on the Activities of the Task Force endorsed at the AF meeting</li> </ul>
Action 4	AF Members	Invited to look into the background document concerning the draft 2020 work programme and provide feedback on any follow-up actions on the identified top 19 priority areas of work by Friday 11.10.2019
Action 5	AF Members	Provide input to the EFSA Strategy 2021-2027 (a separate email will be sent during the course of October)
Action 6	EFSA	Prepare, in collaboration with DE, DK, FI, FR and NL, a proposal for a high-level roadmap on Combined Exposure to Multiple Chemicals, to be presented at the 74th AF meeting
Action 7	EFSA	provide on an upcoming AF meeting an update on the Prometheus project
Action 8	AF Members supported by Focal Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Liaise with the respective members of the Scientific Network on Chemical Monitoring Data Collection and inform EFSA about any occurrence data (or plans to screen) in food/feed and/or environment on any substance included in the priority list of the supplementary material on emerging chemicals published in the EFSA External Scientific Report on Applying a Tested Procedure for the Identification of Potential Emerging Chemical Risks in the Food Chain to the Substances Registered under REACH - REACH2. Focus should be given to those substances among the 212 priority substances for which no EFSA evaluation has been done yet (info to be sent to <a href="mailto:caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu">caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu</a>)</li> <li>b. Express interest on a follow up project of REACH2 (expressions of interest to be sent to <a href="mailto:caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu">caroline.merten@efsa.europa.eu</a>)</li> </ul>