



Annex 5





Advisory Forum work on harmonisation, networking and cooperation

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- **General Requests for Scientific Opinions and Advice**: providing scientific opinions, guidance and advice in response to questions;
- **Authorisations**: Assessing the risk of regulated substances and development of proposals for risk-related factors;
- **Monitoring and assessing specific biological risk factors for human animal health and animal diseases**: BSE/TSE, Zoonoses, plant health
- **Improving the European risk assessment approaches and methodologies**: *Development, promotion and application of new and harmonized scientific approaches and methodologies for hazard and risk assessment*

- Preparation of scientific documents in the framework of regulatory risk assessments
- Development of new and harmonised RA methodologies and approaches
- EU-wide collection and analysis of scientific data
- Formal consultation of the Member States in the framework of specific authorization processes
- Follow and exchange information on newly identified or emerging subjects of common interest
- Openness and transparency

Objectives of the Strategy on scientific cooperation and networking

- To achieve European opinions of high quality.
- To increase the effectiveness, efficiency and awareness of EU Risk Assessments in Europe and beyond.
- To reinforce the credibility and coherence of scientific opinions.
- To continuously improve the quality of scientific advice of EFSA and the national authorities.
- To achieve greater confidence in the advice.
- To provide the opportunity for more consistency in risk management decision-making across Europe.
- To achieve more consistent communication and clearer messages on food safety based on a common approach.

Priority areas for scientific cooperation

- Exchanging and collecting scientific data and information.
- Sharing best risk assessment practices.
- Developing harmonized methodologies for risk assessment.
- Promoting coherence in risk communications.

- June 2006 - Recommendations from the EFSA Management Board.
- September 2006 - Presentation at the AF meeting of the document “Previous and Current Scientific Cooperation with the Member States”.
- November 2006 - Presentation at the AF meeting of the draft Strategy on Cooperation.
- December 2006 - The Strategy on Cooperation was endorsed by the EFSA Management Board.
- February 2007 - AF agreed on the establishment of a **Steering Group on Cooperation**.
- March 2007 - The **Steering Group on Cooperation** held its first meeting.

- Establishing a European network of managers of chemical occurrence data
- Establishing a European network of food consumption database managers
- Harmonisation of risk assessment approaches in Member States
- Risks and benefit of the fortification of food with folic acid
- Horizon scanning to identify emerging food safety risks
- Setting-up a database of national experts in Europe