
SCIENCE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION DIRECTORATE

Parma, 27 March 2014
EFSA/SHP/LdL/2013 V2

Minutes

TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EFSA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM PARMA (ITALY) 26-27 MARCH 2014

MEMBERS OF THE EFSA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE PLATFORM

Chair: *Andreas Varlamos*

AESGP – Association of the European Self-Medication Industry	<i>Hubertus Cranz, Kinga Adamaszwili</i>	EFAD – European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians	<i>Mary Flynn</i>
AMFEP – Association of Manufacturers and Formulators of Enzyme Products	<i>Henk Aalten</i>	EUROCOOP	<i>Chiara Tomalino</i>
BEUC – The European Consumer Organisation	<i>Franca Braga, Emanuela Bianchi</i>	EUROPABIO – European Association for Bioindustries	<i>Delphine Carron</i>
CEFIC – Food & Feed Cluster	<i>Miguel Prieto</i>	FEFAC – European Feed Manufacturers Federation	<i>Alexander Doring</i>
COPA-COGECA – European Farmers-European Agri-Cooperatives	<i>Annette Toft</i>	Food Drink Europe – Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries in the EU	<i>Beate Kettlitz</i>
ECPA – European Crop Protection Association	<i>Euros Jones</i>	IFAH – Europe International Federation for Animal Health-Europe	<i>Declan O'Brien</i>
EEB – European Environmental Bureau	<i>Martin Dermine</i>	PFP – Primary Food Processors Association	<i>Kalila Hajjar</i>
ELC – Federation of European Specialty Ingredients	<i>Petr Mensik</i>		

APOLOGIES

CELCAA – European Liaison Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union

(*Pascale Rouhier*)

EPHA – European Public Health Alliance (*Dorota Scienkiewicz*)

EUROCOMMERCE (*Els Bedert*) connected – via teleconference for point 4.2

ESA – European Seed Association (*Garlich von Essen*)

FEFANA – EU Association of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures (*Didier Jans*)

FRESHFEL EUROPE – European Fresh Produce Association (*Philippe Binard*)

ABSENT

FoEE - Friends of the Earth Europe (*Mute Schimpf*)

Greenpeace (*Marco Contiero*)

UEAPME (*Ludger Fischer*)

OBSERVERS

AIBI – International Association of Plant Bakers	<i>Susanne Döring</i>	Italian Ministry of Health, Veterinary Officer	<i>Carlotta Ferroni</i>
EU Food Policy	<i>Berit Reimann</i>	Coldiretti, Policy officer	<i>Corrado Finardi, Vittorio Fontanta</i>
EU Food Law	<i>Sara Lewis</i>		

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Stakeholder Consultative Platform Secretariat: *Lucia de Luca, Judith Ricketts, Elena Marani*

<i>Marco Binaglia</i>	<i>Djien Liem</i>
<i>Stef Bronzwaer</i>	<i>Jeff Moon</i>
<i>Paolo Colombo</i>	<i>Agnes Rortais</i>
<i>Hubert Deluyker</i>	<i>Alberto Spagnolli</i>
<i>Rory Harrington</i>	<i>Franz Streissl</i>
<i>Fanny Héraud</i>	<i>José Tarazona</i>
<i>Marta Hugas</i>	<i>Bernhard Url</i>
<i>Juliane Kleiner</i>	<i>Silvia Valtueña Martinez</i>
<i>Karine Lhereux</i>	<i>Alessia Vecchio</i>

1 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair, Andreas Varlamos, opened the meeting and welcomed members and observers to the 24th meeting of the Platform. The Chair also welcomed Ms Carlotta Ferroni, veterinary officer, attending the meeting as observer and representing the Italian Ministry of Health. The Chair noted that apologies were received by CELCAA, EPHA, EUROCOMMERCE (whose representative Els Bedert would be listening in to agenda point 4.2), ESA, FEFANA, and FRESHFEL EUROPE.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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Juliane Kleiner, Head of the Scistrat Department at EFSA, asked whether it was possible to update members on the agenda of the 25th meeting of the Platform scheduled on 4 and 5 June in Brussels. The Chair suggested to discuss it under point 6 AoB and adopted the agenda.

2.1 Follow-up actions from the previous meeting

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The Chair went through the pending actions resulting from the 23rd meeting in November 2013. Regarding action point 5, “EFSA to look into best ways for stakeholders, including NGOs”, he said EFSA is considering how to address such point. Regarding action points 6 and 8, the Chair asked the representative of the European Environmental Bureau, who had raised the points at the past meeting, to let the Secretariat know at a short notice if they still intend to follow up on these points or if they wish these points to be deleted from the list of pending actions. The Chair updated members on the fact that the presence of JRC and DG RTD at a Platform meeting, mentioned in action point 7, is scheduled for the June meeting. Action point 10 relating to suggestions of members regarding topics to be addressed at the annual stakeholder meeting, the Chair said that EFSA has not yet decided whether this meeting will take place in 2014, but proposals are welcome in light of the planning of future meetings.

The Chair also reminded members that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved and are available on EFSA’s website.

Action 1: EFSA to look into best ways for stakeholders, including NGOs, to follow open Panel meetings by 2014.

Action 2: Member EEB to provide information regarding Management Board decision regarding feeding trials at their earliest convenience.

Action 3: EFSA to invite JRC and/or DG RTD at a Platform meeting to get an update on their activities related to EFSA’s risk assessment and the way forward related to Horizon 2020: 4 June 2014 at 25th Platform meeting.

Action 4: EFSA to reflect on how to involve a broader range of independent scientists in their activities. EEB to decide whether to give a presentation on the topic at their earliest convenience.

Action 5: Members to provide suggestions regarding topics to be addressed during the Annual Stakeholder Colloque during 2014.

3 STANDING ITEMS

3.1 EFSA's Multi annual Plan 2014-2016

The Chair gave the floor to Alberto Spagnolli, Head of the EXO Unit, who illustrated EFSA's approach to the single programming document which provides the Agency with a long-term planning of its work. Alberto presented an overview of the trends which will characterise EFSA's work for the period 2014-2016 such as an increase workload in the areas of novel foods, pesticides, plant pests and enzymes as well as work in new areas such as environmental risk assessment, post-marketing monitoring and risk benefit and efficacy. Alberto also presented some of the key initiatives EFSA plans for the period, such as for example, ensuring efficient handling of applications, developing an EU Risk Assessment agenda and ensuring scientific cooperation at international level. Talking about EFSA's trust, Alberto highlighted planned initiatives in the area of transparency and improved clarity of EFSA's work. Alberto listed some of the initiatives which foresee an active participation of stakeholders in 2014. Alberto also stressed the importance of stakeholder feedback in order to shape EFSA's future activities, and invited stakeholders to share their views on the preliminary management plan for 2015 and the multi-annual plan for 2014-2016. The documents will be shared by the Secretariat as soon as finalised and stakeholders are invited to send comments by mid September 2014.

Action 6: Members to send their comments on the draft versions of EFSA's Multiannual Plan 2014–2016 and Preliminary 2015 Management Plan by mid September 2014.

3.2 Update from EFSA's Application Desk:

The Chair invited Karine Lheureux, Head of the APDESK Unit, to present an update of the work of the Unit. Karine provided an overview of attendance at the information sessions on applications organised and explained how EFSA improved these meetings in light of the knowledge gathered through these events. Karine also presented an overview of the activities currently provided by EFSA to support applicants and reported on the progress of new initiatives currently under development, such as the implementation of a more customer-oriented approach towards regulated products and EFSA's upcoming surveys to gather applicants' evolving needs and monitor their satisfaction. Regarding electronic submission of applications, a member asked EFSA to involve stakeholders at a very early stage of the study to capitalise on the knowledge and expertise applicants have matured in the submission of dossiers, instead of consulting them on a draft proposal. Some members suggested EFSA should respond to the requests of applicants and look at solutions put in place by other EU agencies such as EMA. Karine said that EFSA is aware that there are very high expectations on the breadth of services for applicants and that EFSA evaluates these taking into account the legislative framework EFSA operates in, which is not the same of those of other EU agencies. Karine also clarified that for the

time-being the APDESK Unit does not provide any support for the re-evaluation of food additives which is dealt with by the FIP Unit at EFSA. Karine also provided an overview of the calendar of information sessions planned for 2014.

3.3 Update on the work of the SHP Discussion Groups Doc SHP 26 03 14 – 4

The Chair highlighted the importance of the discussion groups set up by the Platform which, with their work, can contribute in a tangible way to EFSA's progress and thanked members for their commitment. He then gave the floor to Lucia de Luca, stakeholder relations officer at EFSA, who referred to the written update on work and progress of the three groups shared before the meeting. Lucia said that the membership of the group on emerging risks had been successfully renewed and she thanked Platform members who made it possible to find experts with proven experience in the scientific areas the group will work on. Lucia clarified that only experts in the field of plant health had not yet been identified and invited members to put forward suggestions on suitable candidates. Lucia also informed the Platform that the new list of members and the renewed terms of reference will be published soon in the dedicated area on EFSA's website.

Regarding the group on food chemical occurrence data, Lucia suggested giving the floor to Paolo Colombo, Leader of the Team dealing with food additives at EFSA, for an update. Paolo said that one of the topics debated at the first meeting of the group, that is information about an EFSA work programme for the re-evaluation of food additives for the period 2014-2015, will be among the subjects discussed at a workshop EFSA is organising on 28 April 2014. The main goals of the workshop are to inform interested parties on the work programme 2014-2016 related to the re-evaluation of the food additives and the planning of work outlined by EFSA's ANS Panel; to further engage with stakeholders on data submission: uses, use levels and toxicological data, and share information on potential outcomes of risk assessment on the basis of available data. The Secretariat will send information by email shortly and Paolo invited all members to circulate the information to their delegates and to attend the workshop.

Action 7: Members to suggest names of experts in the area of plant health to become members of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Group on Emerging Risks (StaCG-ER).

3.4 Communications Activities: news in brief

The Chair gave the floor to Rory Harrington, communications officer at EFSA, who highlighted the important role of the members of the Platform in spreading information regarding EFSA communications and thanked the members for their support. Rory informed members that in early April 2014 EFSA would launch a call to renew the membership of its Scientific Committee and eight of its ten Scientific Panels. Specific infor-

mation will be posted on the EFSA website and also sent to Platform members. Rory also provided a detailed overview of the various communications activities foreseen to better explain EFSA's upcoming work in the field of pesticides, animal health and welfare, biological hazards and zoonoses, plant health, nutrition and GMO. Rory also clarified the difference among the various pieces of communications published by EFSA, their publication timeline and how they contribute to increase the information on EFSA's scientific work.

3.5 EFSA's priorities in the area of International Relations

The Chair gave the floor to Djien Liem, responsible for International Relations, who illustrated some of the challenges and opportunities faced by EFSA at international level. Djien explained the actions EFSA proposes to take in order to develop an international scientific cooperation programme and support the EU in its international commitments. These actions focus on enhancing the support provided to risk managers in the activities in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and improving cooperation with Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees and EU agencies. EFSA also plans to develop a more extensive work programme with WHO and FAO as well with other organisations at international level to harmonise risk assessment and risk communications practices. Djien explained how EFSA is currently mapping all ongoing activities to better identify the needs and develop a multiannual programme for 2014-2016 which will undergo a consultation with all EFSA fora, including the Stakeholder Consultative Platform. It was agreed to discuss this programme, as well as the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap, at the November meeting of the Platform.

The Chair thanked members for the questions and for the interest shown and stated that this point was included in the agenda following a request from ELC.

Action 8: EFSA to discuss with the Platform the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap, including EFSA's International Scientific Cooperation, at the 26th Platform meeting on 19-20 November 2014.

3 STANDING ITEMS (CONT'D')

3.6 EFSA's Progress Report

On behalf of the Platform, The Chair congratulated Bernhard Url for the recent nomination as EFSA's Executive Director. Bernhard Url provided a snapshot of the activities at EFSA in the last months highlighting the results from the March Advisory Forum meeting and the activities with stakeholders. Bernhard also mentioned the various scientific opinions published in the field of animal and plant health, biological hazards and contaminants and the results of activities in the area of evidence management. Many

results in the field of regulated products were also mentioned. The presentation of activities at international levels triggered requests for clarification as well as the activities EFSA plans in the framework of the EXPO 2015. Members were particularly interested in hearing EFSA's views on how to deal with diverging views in scientific opinions and in the relations between EFSA's Conflict of Interest Policy and the private-public approach which characterises Horizon2020.

EFSA's Acting Executive Director answered questions received from the members. The Chair thanked him for the answers provided, in particular regarding EFSA's future challenges.

Action 9: EFSA to look into the possibility of organising a meeting of the SHP during the Milan EXPO 2015.

4. STRATEGIC TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 The peer review process of active substances in the EU system

The Chair gave the floor to José V. Tarazona, Head of the Pesticides Unit, to present the peer review process of active substances in the EU system and the role of EFSA in this process. José outlined the content of dossiers and summary dossiers received by EFSA, the comparison of the published information for each study with that from peer-reviewed scientific publications, the process and methods EFSA follows to reach its conclusions and the information made publicly available by EFSA. The relations among EFSA, the rapporteur member states and other member states which are part of the process was detailed very clearly and further clarified in response to some questions which followed. José asked stakeholders if they wished to receive further clarification on this aspect. José also asked for stakeholder feedback on aspects which could benefit from improvement such as the involvement of stakeholders in activities such as collection and exchange of information, the development of the guidance and the evaluation process of specific substances. It was agreed stakeholders would send suggestions regarding these aspects by the end of April 2014.

The Chair thanked the members for the interest they showed and stated that this point had been added to the agenda following a request received by EEB.

Action 10: Members to reply to questions indicated in presentations N. 5 "The peer review process of active substances in the EU system", N. 9 "EFSA's work in the area of bee health ", and N. 10 "Guidance document on Risk Assessment" shared at the 24th meeting of the Platform.

4.2 EFSA's risk assessment in relation to food allergens

The Chair gave the floor to Silvia Valtueña Martínez, Senior Scientific Officer, Nutrition Unit at EFSA, and welcomed Els Bedert, representative of EUROCOMMERCE, connected by phone. Silvia explained the rules for food allergen labelling in the EU and provided an overview of the aspects EFSA's NDA Panel is considering in the upcoming opinion on allergens for labelling purposes, following a mandate which EFSA received from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Silvia clarified that the opinion is tabled for adoption at the 9-11 April meeting of the Panel and that it will then be released for public consultation. Silvia invited stakeholders to respond to the call and said that comments received will be taken into account in view of the finalisation of the opinion. Silvia also invited members to share names of organisations to be notified about the consultation.

The duration of EFSA's consultations was discussed also under this agenda point and EFSA said that the agency considers, whenever possible, extending the six-week deadline it provides to stakeholders to ensure EFSA's experts rely on the widest range of information to finalise EFSA's work.

The Chair thanked Silvia for her presentation and Els for having asked to add this topic to the agenda of the meetings of the Platform.

4.2 Risk assessment of Plant Protection Products on bees: progresses and new challenges for EFSA

The Chair thanked the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for their proposal to present the point of view of the organisation in the area of pesticides and bee health and gave the floor to Martin Dermine representing EEB. Martin referred to the EFSA guidance document on the risk assessment of plant protection products on bees, listed some major improvements achieved in the guidance and shared some proposals for its further improvement. Among these are: the elaboration of new protocols through more coordinated activities with several public and private initiatives, the APITOX case and the need for publicly-funded independent laboratories, and suggested to develop validated tests for the testing of sublethal toxicity. Martin also pointed out the need for EFSA to move from the tiered approach followed in the guidance and to discuss new protocols openly with stakeholders.

4.3 EFSA's work in the area of bee health

Continuing in the field of bee health, the Chair invited Agnès Rortais, Scientific Officer working in the Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit, to provide members with an overview of the multi-faceted work EFSA is carrying out on bee health. Agnès summarised the many activities EFSA's different Units and Panels are carrying out in the area of bee health with particular attention paid to the work of EFSA's multidisciplinary

“Bee Task Force”. Agnès said that EFSA set up this group to develop a holistic approach to the environmental risk assessment of multiple stressors on bees and that results and learning of this work are shaping EFSA’s future work in this area. She said that this work will focus on consolidating the environmental risk assessment of multiple stressors on bees, expand the work to other species and other functions of the ecosystems and explore new methods such as modelling to further address multiple stressors.

Agnès also asked members for their views on the setting up of an expert network on bee health, on the usefulness of a shared database on bee health and related risk assessment data, as well as suggestions regarding other areas of work the proposed network could deal with. Agnès stressed how suggestions on how stakeholders could contribute to a co-ordinated data collection programme were welcome, while members suggested EFSA should pay attention to the support member states’ beekeepers - through the European associations representing their interests – can offer in data collection efforts in this field.

Action 10: Members to reply to questions indicated in presentations N. 5 “The peer review process of active substances in the EU system”, N. 9 “EFSA’s work in the area of bee health “, and N. 10 “Guidance document on Risk Assessment” shared at the 24th meeting of the Platform.

4.4 Guidance document on Risk Assessment on bees

The Chair gave the floor to Dr. Franz Streissl, Scientific Officer in the EFSA Pesticide Unit, to illustrate the key principles of the EFSA Guidance Document on the Risk Assessment of Plant Protection Products on bees. Franz clarified the terms of reference EFSA had to address in the development of the guidance document and gave an overview on the differences to previous guidance and the different elements in the risk assessment which result in a more conservative or a less conservative assessment. Various aspects related to specific protection goals as set by risk managers in member states and the assessment of sublethal effects were also presented. Pointing out the importance of stakeholder contribution to EFSA’s work, stakeholders were encouraged to give feedback on acceptable levels of effects, which sublethal effects are considered important, how to mitigate the risk to bees from exposure to pesticides and which of the open issues in the guidance document should be addressed with highest priority.

Action 10: Members to reply to questions indicated in presentations N. 5 “The peer review process of active substances in the EU system”, N. 9 “EFSA’s work in the area of bee health “, and N. 10 “Guidance document on Risk Assessment” shared at the 24th meeting of the Platform.

Action 11: Members to suggest names of scientific experts in various scientific areas to contribute to the various aspect of EFSA's scientific work throughout the year.

4.5 EFSA's work in the area of Data Collection: Case studies: Acrylamide & Heavy metals presence in Europe

Fanny Héraud, working in the Unit of Evidence Management (DATA) at EFSA, was invited to share with participants some insights on data collection activities carried out by EFSA. Fanny explained how occurrence data are collected by EFSA thorough permanent and ad-hoc data calls and thanked the organisation's member of the discussion group on food chemical occurrence data, set up by the Platform in 2013, for its contribution to the improvement of EFSA work in this area. Fanny presented two case studies on data gathered on arsenic in rice and mercury in tuna fish and clarified how data gathered in the latter example contributed to the finalisation of the opinion issued by the CONTAM Panel. Fanny also presented the results so far on the ad-hoc call on acrylamide and thanked the Platform for their contribution during the consultation. This example of coordination with stakeholders was particularly appreciated by the members of the Platform. The Chair suggested that cooperation with BEUC and national consumer associations may help EFSA in gathering data on acrylamide and other contaminants in home preparations and that data gathered by EFSA could help food business operators improve their hazard analysis as part to the HACCP processes.

EFSA's work in the area of Contaminants

To complement this part of the agenda dedicated to the risk assessment of contaminants in the food chain, the Chair gave the floor to Marco Binaglia, Senior Scientific Officer, Contaminants/BIOCONTAM Unit at EFSA, to provide members with an overview of the CONTAM Panel risk assessments on contaminants in food and feed. Marco focused on the work on mycotoxins the Panel has been addressing since 2004. Referring, for example, to the opinion on the mycotoxin *zearalenone*, Marco pointed out how stakeholders can help EFSA in reducing uncertainties in risk assessment and invited members of the Platform to provide more data in areas such as occurrence, consumption for specific group of the population, influence of food/feed processing and more data on toxicity and toxicokinetics.

Members asked various questions on aspects such as the submission of data through what some members defined the sometimes complex forms used by EFSA, on the use of data on transfer rate from feed to foods of animal origin, and how EFSA ensures coordination among the work of the various EFSA Panels and other risk assessment bodies which may be assessing the same compounds (e.g. perchlorate) for different purposes. Regarding the need to further discuss with stakeholders about some of these aspects, some members

suggested that EFSA organises a specific workshop on the topic, in particular in relation to the possibility to share information on transfer rate from feed to foods of animal origin for different substances.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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The Chair gave the floor to Juliane Kleiner who wanted to update the members on the agenda of the 25th meeting of the Platform which will take place in Brussels on 4 and 5 June 2014. Juliane said that the meeting on 4 June will be a standard meeting of the Platform discussing subjects such as future needs in research for risk assessment foreseen under the Horizon 2020 framework. The second day will be devoted to the discussion of the revised implementing rules of EFSA's Declaration of Interests Policy and that external experts could be invited to join. This session will foresee the possibility for representatives of the various members of the Platform to present their views on the subject. Juliane informed the audience that the Chair and vice Chair of EFSA's Management Board will also attend the meeting.

The Chair informed the members that the Rolling Work Plan of EFSA's activities with its stakeholders was updated and that a printout is available in their packs.

6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chair said that the next meeting will take place in Brussels on 4 and 5 June 2014 and thanked the members for their participation, the observers for following the proceedings and, with no other points raised, the Chair closed the meeting.

Ends---