

31 May 2010

Seminar on Food Additives and Flavourings

11-12 May 2010, Zagreb, Croatia
Hotel International, Miramarska 24

DRAFT REPORT

Background information:

This seminar was organized within the EFSA Pre-Accession Programme 2009/2010 for the Candidate countries and the Potential Candidate countries* financed by the European Commission under the IPA Component.

The overall objective of the Programme is to promote the understanding of EFSA's work, share expertise and create information exchange mechanisms in order to ensure that the national authorities of the beneficiary countries can participate effectively in the activities of EFSA both prior to accession and following accession to the EU.

The participation in this Programme may contribute to the beneficiaries in familiarising themselves with the EU policies and working methods particularly focusing on "from field to plate" integrated approach to food safety.

Relevance of the Seminar to objectives of the Programme:

- The seminar provided an overall knowledge on the role of EFSA in the area of risk assessment and risk communication.
- EFSA's role in the risk assessment of food additives, nutrient sources and other substances deliberately added to food were explained by the head of EFSA Unit on food additives and nutrient sources added to food - ANS. The head of EFSA Unit on food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids - CEF presented their work related to questions on the safety of use of materials in contact with food, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids, as well as safety of processes.
- In particular, new initiatives in fostering the Pan-European scientific cooperation and harmonisation of risk assessment methodologies was presented. The representatives from the beneficiary countries were encouraged to apply for the EFSA Expert Data Base.
- Experts from the EU Member States and from a Candidate Country presented their approaches in the respected area sharing views on the importance of scientific cooperation particularly when data collection and information exchange is in question.
- This seminar provided a solid starting point for networking and creation of information exchange systems as the first step in preparation of the beneficiaries for their future participation in the EFSA networks.

The agenda of this seminar is enclosed as Annex 1

* **Candidate countries:** Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey

Potential Candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSCR1244), Montenegro, Serbia

The audience in this seminar will consist of approximately 50 representatives from the competent authorities in Food Safety from the 3 Candidate countries and 5 Potential Candidate countries.

List of participants enclosed as an Annex 2.

Conclusions and recommendations:

This seminar gave a solid platform for exchange of views and experiences between the representatives from the beneficiary countries, EFSA, the Member States. The participants took an active part in discussions on the different topics related to scientific cooperation and harmonization of risk assessment methodologies when food additives and flavourings are in question.

Representatives from the Candidate countries presented the state of art in the food safety in their countries, explained the structure of the system, and presented the scientific activities and the difficulties they are facing. The contacts established during the seminar together with the gained knowledge will help EFSA in planning the future collaboration with those countries under the Pre-Accession Programme.

The participants were informed about and encouraged to apply to the EFSA Expert Database. The participants were also invited to apply to the EFSA call for expressions of interest for Seconded National Experts within EFSA, particularly to work in EFSA Pesticide Risk Assessment Peer Review Unit.

The contacts established between participants and EFSA representatives and Member States' experts during the seminar will provide a solid starting point for possible future information exchange and collaboration.

Results of the satisfaction questionnaire

49 representatives of different competent authorities from the three Candidate countries and the 4 Potential Candidate countries attended the seminar. 40 participants answered to the evaluation questionnaire. Hotel facilities including meeting room were considered as excellent or very good by the majority of the participants (85%). Presentation skills of the speakers (85%), the content of speeches (77%) as well as responsiveness to the questions (70%) were on the highest level. 72,5% of the participants found presentations being on the right level and the majority felt they had enough opportunity to express their opinion and ask questions (80%). The participants considered that this seminar was an excellent or very good opportunity for improving their knowledge on this topic (70%). Additional topics they would like to see addressed in the future seminars include topics such as nutrition and health claims, risk assessment of food enzymes, and antibiotics in food. **27,5%** of participants found the overall value of the seminar as excellent while **62,5%** considered it as very good.

Seminar on Food Additives and Flavourings

Agenda

11 May 2010	
13.30 - 14.00	Registration
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome and Introduction by the chair <i>Finn Sheye</i> , Pre-Accession Coordinator, Legal and Policy Affairs Unit, EFSA
14.10 – 14.20	Welcome by <i>Zorica Jurković</i> , Director of Croatian Food Agency
14.20 – 15.00	EFSA's work in the area of food additives, nutrient sources and other substances added to food by <i>Hugues Kenigswald</i> , Head of ANS Unit, EFSA
15.00 – 16.00	Part I. EFSA's work in the area of food contact materials, enzymes, flavourings and processing aids by <i>Dr. Alexandre Feigenbaum</i> , Head of CEF Unit Part II. Prevention of crises in food contact materials by <i>Dr. Milada Sycová</i> , Regional Public Health Authority (RPHA), Poprad, Slovak Republic, Member of EFSA ESCO Working Group
16.00– 16.20	Coffee break
16.20 – 17.05	The latest developments in the field of food additives and nutrient sources, flavourings, processing aids and food contact material in the 3 Candidate countries (15 min each) Croatia: <i>Marijan Katalenić</i> , Head of Food Safety Department, Croatian National Institute of Public Health, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: <i>Dr. Marina Popovska Domazetova</i> , Director, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health Turkey: <i>Dr. Betül Vazgeçer</i> , Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Protection and Control, Feed and Food Registration Services Department, Food Codex Division
17.05 – 17.45	The Member States and their Cooperation with the EU Institutions and EFSA on Food Safety by <i>Philippe Prigent</i> , French Food Safety Agency, EFSA Focal Point
17.45 – 18.00	Discussion
20.00	Dinner

12 May 2010	
09.00 – 09.45	EFSA's work in the area of food additives and nutrient sources: Case study on steviol glycosides by <i>Hugues Kenigswald</i> , Head of ANS Unit, EFSA
09.45 – 10.25	Flavourings and processing aids Part I. Case study on Food Contact Materials: Bisphenol A by <i>Alexandre Feigenbaum</i> , Head of CEF Unit, EFSA
10.25 – 11.00	The work of EFSA in fostering scientific cooperation in Europe by <i>Sergio Potier Rodeia</i> , Liaison Officer, Scientific Cooperation Unit, EFSA
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.00	Why do we need risk communications? Case study on aspartame and bisphenol A by <i>Karen Talbot</i> , Communications Advisor, Press Office, EFSA
12.00- 12.30	Flavourings and processing aids, Part II. Safety Evaluation of Smoke Flavourings by <i>Cristina Croera</i> , Scientific Officer, CEF Unit, EFSA
12.30 - 13.00	The Pre-Accession Programmes today and what to expect in the future by <i>Goran Kumric</i> , Policy Officer, Legal and Policy Affairs Unit, EFSA
13.00 – 13.30	Discussion and Conclusions of the meeting
13.30	Lunch

Participant list

Participants from Croatia

1. DUNDUR Gordana, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
2. BABIĆ Jurislav, Faculty of Food Technology in Osijek,
3. BERLJAK Štefanija, Podravka Corporation,
4. BOŠNIR Jasna, Institute of Public Health "Dr.Andrija Štampar",
5. FRANIĆ Romana, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
6. GAČIĆ Milica, Food Control Center,
7. JURKOVIĆ Martina, Croatian Food Agency,
8. JURKOVIĆ Zorica, Croatian Food Agency,
9. KOZAČINSKI Lidija, The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
10. KATALENIĆ Marijan, Croatian National Institute of Public Health,
11. MARUŠIĆ Jadranka, Public Health Institute of Split,
12. MILOŠ Sanja, Croatian Food Agency,
13. PAPIĆ Jasminka, Croatian National Institute of Public Health,
14. RAČIĆ Ana, Labosan Corporation,
15. RKMAN Ilija, Consumer Organization,
16. SABLJIĆ Marija Dinarina, Ireks-aroma Corporation,
17. SOKOLIĆ MIHALAK Darja, Croatian Food Agency,
18. STRAŽANAC Danijela, Croatian Food Agency,
19. ŠTIMAC Ana Marija, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development,
20. TURKALJ Jarmila, Croatian Food Agency,
21. VAHČIĆ Nada, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology in Zagreb,
22. VALEK Marina, Public Health Institute of Osijek,
23. VASIĆ RAČKI Đurđa, Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology,
24. VOLAR PANTIĆ Edita, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development,
25. VRČEC Valerije, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry in Zagreb,

Participants from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

26. AGUSHI Arsim, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,
27. DAVIDOVSKI Ratko, Centre for Public Health- Tetovo,
28. CHULEVA Biljana, National Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Macedonia,
29. PETRESKI Bozin, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,
30. POPOVSKA Suzana, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,
31. POPOVSKA-DOMAZETOVA Marina, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,
32. STOJANOVSKA Kata, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,

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33. STOJANOVSKA Lilijana, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,
 34. TALESKI Vaso, Institute of Preventive Medicine, Department of Microbiology- Military Hospital Skopje,
 35. ZDRAVEVA Marina, Food Directorate, Ministry of Health,

Participants from Turkey

36. KORKUT Halis, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Protection and Control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
37. VAZGEÇER Betül, Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of protection and Control
38. ÖZBAĞ Nergiz, Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of Protection and control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
39. USLU Hatice, Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of protection and Control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
40. GÜRSEL Seycan, of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of protection and Control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
41. KÖSE Yelda, Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of protection and Control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
42. AYSEL Mehtap Bircan, Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs (MARA), General Directorate of Protection and Control, Department of Food and Feed Control Services
43. ÇOBANOĞLU Mehmet, General Directorate of Protection and Control –Food Foreign Trade and Control Section
44. AKKURT Cevahir, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Protection and Control, Department of Food Control Services
45. AKTAS Rind Kursat, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), National Food Reference Laboratory. Food Additive Adulteration and Authenticity Department

Participant from Bosnia and Herzegovina

46. MAČKIĆ Sejad, Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Participant from Kosovo

47. KADRIU Flamur, Chief of veterinary Public Health,

Participant from Montenegro

48. DELEVIĆ Vaseelin, Institute for Public Health

Participant from Serbia

49. STOJKOVIC Goran, Ministry of Health