TRANSPARENCY IN RISK ASSESSMENT
OPENING REMARKS

Sue Davies
Chair of EFSA Management Board

Transparency in Risk Assessment - 3 October 2013, Parma
Openness and transparency are fundamental aspects of EFSA and are enshrined as concepts in EFSA’s regulatory framework and in the overall Community policies on governance.


2005: Decision of the EFSA’s Management Board concerning implementing measures of transparency and confidentiality

2006: EFSA Scientific Committee opinion on transparency in risk assessment – procedural aspects

2009: EFSA Scientific Committee opinion on transparency in risk assessment – scientific aspects

2012: Management Board recommendations related to EFSA’s external evaluation
External Evaluation report: Comments - Openness and Transparency

- Publication of a wider portfolio of documents than those foreseen in the Founding Regulation;
- Satisfying level of inclusion of external stakeholders in EFSA’s decision making processes;
- Availability of a wide mix of instruments of involvement that globally satisfy stakeholders (i.e. Stakeholder Consultative Platform, Colloquia, workshops, hearing experts etc.);
- Progressively open attitude (e.g. Pilot project to open up some Panels to external observers).

STRENGTHS
External Evaluation report: Comments - Openness and Transparency

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Risk assessment processes, as the majority of Panel meetings are closed to public scrutiny;
- Updating of opinions when there is new evidence or criticisms raised;
- Clarity as relates the sources of data, and the use of conflicting data, assumptions, uncertainties, diverging opinions and stakeholders’ comments;
- Transparency of the screening procedures and decisions on conflicts of interests;
- Transparency of the data collection process: provision, use, ownership and accessibility of data.
EFSA’s Management Board recommendations

EFSA should increase trust by continuing to ensure independence and enhancing transparency and openness:

- **Processes and scientific approaches** (prioritisation, panel meetings, risk assessment process, public consultation and engagement with stakeholders)

- **Opinions** (clear language and the basis of opinions clearly explained, including data sources, exclusion/inclusion criteria, assumptions, uncertainties and any diverging views)
EFSA’s Management Board recommendations

- EFSA to enhance **transparency of and access to the data** used in its risk assessments and to continue to review its independence policy/procedures.

- Greater involvement of stakeholders and other EU institutions in the **framing and formulation of requests** for scientific advice.

- EFSA to strengthen the clarity of its communication, **improve accessibility and usability of information** in its communication tools (e.g. web-site).
Purpose of today’s discussions

- To identify how we can build on what has been achieved so far

- To identify the priority areas for action:
  - How can the Panel work be opened up further, taking into account the different types of Opinions, building on the pilot project?
  - Where do EFSA’s processes and procedures need to be made clearer?
  - How far should we go in terms of publication of data?
  - How and when should stakeholders be consulted and involved?

- To focus on what needs to happen in practice and how any constraints should be overcome.