

# Terms of Reference of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data

## Background

Article 33 of the EFSA Founding Regulation requires the Authority to 'search for, collect, collate, analyse and summarise relevant scientific and technical data in the fields within its mission. EFSA is also required to work in close cooperation with all organisations operating in the field of data collection, including those from applicant countries, third countries or international bodies.

EFSA has established standard procedures to collate data on food consumption, as well as monitoring data on contaminants, pesticide residues, zoonoses, food additives and food contact materials. The majority of chemical occurrence data that the Evidence Management (DATA) unit receives comes from annual monitoring programmes conducted in Member States. Relatively little data has been received from industry, universities or other private sources.

Within the domain of food additives, the Commission has asked EFSA to re-evaluate the safety of food additives already authorised in the Union before 2009<sup>1</sup> and to issue scientific opinions on these additives. The re-evaluation must take into account the priorities, procedures and deadlines that are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 of 25 March 2010 for drawing-up a programme for the re-evaluation of approved food additives in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives, as last amended.

To this end, the ANS Panel (Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food) has an urgent need to collect data on additive usage in foods, and preferably analytical occurrence data, in accordance with the timetable for re-evaluation.

EFSA's CONTAM Panel (Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain) may also require data on levels of contaminants in food, when such data is not available in EFSA's contaminant occurrence database. This task represents an integral part of EFSA's data collection activities.

EFSA is dedicated to greater openness, transparency and engagement and one of the ways it demonstrates this commitment is through its collaboration activities with stakeholders. Members of the EFSA Stakeholder Consultative Platform (SHP) have explored how stakeholders could best contribute to the provision of data to support EFSA's future scientific work, for example through establishing discussion groups. To encourage the sharing of stakeholder data on food additives and certain contaminants, the Platform suggested the formation of a "Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data".

The establishment of the Stakeholder Consultative Platform Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data (hereafter referred to as to SHP DG FCO) in October 2013 was initially planned for one year but with the possibility to review the usefulness of

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<sup>1</sup> M-2011-0160. Re-evaluation programme of approved food additives.

the work of the group. In November 2014 the duration of the group was extended for a further year and in November 2015 the mandate of the group was requested to be extended for a further two years, until 30 November 2017.

## **Terms of reference**

Members of the group shall discuss and exchange information on the practical aspects and challenges regarding the provision of occurrence data and usage data from stakeholders, with a particular focus on food additives and contaminants.

## **Composition of the Discussion Group**

The Discussion Group shall be composed of a group representing, as far as possible, the whole food chain, from primary production to retail, as well as non-governmental organisations.

Members of the discussion group can be nominated by the EFSA Stakeholder Platform and selected by EFSA. Representatives of organisations who are not members of the Platform can also express their interest in taking part in the group. The experts shall be selected on the basis of their technical expertise in data management within the remit of the Group as well as their strong motivation.

Each organisation will be represented preferably by one representative.

The selection will also ensure representation from both industry and consumer concerns.

## **Frequency of the meetings**

The SHP DG FCO will meet at least once per year.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The Stakeholder Consultative Platform Discussion Group on Food Chemical Occurrence Data is coordinated by the Evidence Management (DATA) unit.

The coordinator of the SHP DG FCO will also be the Chair of the meeting and be responsible for drafting the minutes of the meetings and reporting back to the Platform.

## **Expected deliverables and timelines**

Agendas and Minutes of each meeting shall be produced and will be published on EFSA's website.

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