

Parma, 26th March 2014
EFSA/FP/M/2013/119/PUB

Final Minutes

NINETEENTH MEETING BETWEEN FOCAL POINTS AND EFSA

PARMA (ITALY), 19TH - 20TH FEBRUARY 2014

Members

Chair: Stef Bronzwaer

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Austria | <i>Melanie Kuffner</i> | Italy | <i>Luca Busani</i> |
| Belgium | <i>Laurence Ballieux</i> | Latvia | <i>Aija Melngaile</i> |
| Bulgaria | <i>Donka Popova-Mincheva</i> | Lithuania | <i>Ilona Drulyte</i> |
| Croatia | <i>Sanja Miloš</i> | Luxembourg | <i>Nathalie Welschbillig</i> |
| Cyprus | <i>Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri</i> | Malta | <i>Ingrid Busuttil</i> |
| Czech Republic | <i>Karolína Mikanová</i> | Netherlands | <i>Hubert Noteborn</i> |
| Denmark | <i>Dennis Jensen</i> | Norway | <i>Ingfrid Slaatto Næss</i> |
| Estonia | <i>Piret Priisalu</i> | Poland | <i>Iwona Wiśniewska</i> |
| Finland | <i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i> | Portugal | <i>Maria Graça Mariano</i> |
| France | <i>Adrienne Pittman</i> | Romania | <i>Alecsandra Dida Cozachievi</i> |
| Germany | <i>Susanne Kaus</i> | Slovak Republic | <i>Zuzana Bírošová</i> |
| Greece | <i>Gorgias Garofalakis</i> | Slovenia | <i>Blaža Nahtigal</i> |
| Hungary | <i>Renáta Prisztóka</i> | Spain | <i>Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry</i> |
| Iceland | <i>Ástfríður Sigurðardóttir</i> | Sweden | <i>Melle Säre-Söderbergh</i> |
| Ireland | <i>Edel Smyth</i> | United Kingdom | <i>Esther Heller</i> |

Observers

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| FYR of Macedonia | <i>Abdulezel Dogani</i> | Switzerland | <i>Barbara Engeli</i> |
| Montenegro | <i>Nina Milović</i> | | |

Staff of the European Food Safety Authority

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Stef Bronzwaer</i> | <i>Juliane Kleiner</i> |
| <i>Jeff Moon</i> | <i>Georges Kass</i> |
| <i>Stylianios Koulouris</i> | <i>Marina Koussathana</i> |
| <i>Kerstin Gross-Helmert</i> | <i>Lucia de Luca</i> |
| <i>Isabelle Hubert</i> | <i>Ilias Papatryphon</i> |
| <i>Sérgio Potier Rodeia</i> | <i>Daniela Benetinova</i> |
| <i>Cristina Cimelli</i> | |

1 WELCOME BY CHAIR

Stef Bronzwaer, Head of EFSA's Advisory Forum and Scientific Cooperation (AFSCO) Unit and Chair of the meeting opened the 19th meeting between Focal Points (FPs) and EFSA.

The Chair welcomed the representatives from 33 countries, in particular those attending a FP meeting for the first time, namely: Karolina Mikanová (Czech Republic), Edel Smyth (Ireland), Ilona Drulyte (Lithuania), Ingfrid Slaatto-Naess (Norway), Melle Säv-Söderbergh (Sweden), and Barbara Engeli (Switzerland). The Chair also thanked the good work and collaboration of the former FPs Klaus Henning (Germany), Marie Louise Wiborg (Norway) and Judith Beck (Switzerland), wishing them all the best, personally and professionally. Apologies were received from Serbia and Turkey.

2 ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF SCISTRAT DEPARTMENT

The Chair introduced Juliane Kleiner, Head of the Science Strategy and Coordination Department. Juliane Kleiner made a short address to FPs, highlighting that the currently ongoing Scientific Cooperation Review has revealed that the FP work is very much appreciated and expected to continue to increase overtime. To this purpose, the FP network is expected to build on its strengths and on identified opportunities, including additional tasks. Brief reference was also made to the ongoing work concerning the new FP Agreements as of 2015 and to the need for reviewing the current list of tasks of FPs, as laid down on the current FP Agreements.

3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, MINUTES OF LAST FP MEETING, ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Following previous distribution of the draft agenda to FPs, additional items were asked to be raised under Points 11 "Issues raised by Focal Points" and 12 "Any Other Business (AOB)". These included ANSES's (FR) work programme for 2014; a presentation from CY on "What consumers can do for reducing chemical hazards through food?"; presentations from NL on "Risk assessment and risk ranking in the food chain" and "Cumulative and aggregated exposure to pesticides – The Acropolis Project"; and the "State-of-play of Portuguese organisations under the Art. 36 List (PT)". BE, ES and DK also asked to have an item included under AOB. The Chair then adopted the final Agenda.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoIs) of meeting participants. No conflicts of interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting were identified during the screening process or reported by FPs at the beginning of the meeting.

The final minutes of the 18th FP meeting were approved by written procedure and published on EFSA's website on the 21.11.2013¹. The Chair also informed FPs that the signed copy of the 2014 FP Agreements will be distributed during the first coffee break and that the date of start of the eligibility for use of the respective financial contribution is 22.01.2014.

4 EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC OPINION OF THE ANS PANEL ON THE RE-EVALUATION OF ASPARTAME AS A FOOD ADDITIVE

The Chair introduced George Kass, Delegated Head of Unit of EFSA's FIP Unit, who briefly presented to FPs the latest full risk assessment on aspartame². A short history of this sweetener and the reasons that led EFSA to undertake such rigorous review of all available scientific research, including of breakdown products, was presented. The key conclusions of this opinion were finally highlighted followed by an informed discussion.

5 UPDATE ON THE 5 YEAR REVIEW OF THE EDB - RESULTS FROM THE EDB SURVEY

The Chair introduced Stylianos Koulouris, Scientific Officer at the AFSCO Unit in charge of EFSA's Expert Database (EDB), who presented FPs the formal review of the EDB after 5 years of operation. The review aimed to reassess user needs of the EDB tool, review objectives and requirements of the EDB tool, and plan future developments of the tool. After presentation of the key outcomes of the survey, the Chair opened the floor for discussion on three leading questions: (1) are the original objectives of EDB still valid? (2) given the "low" use made by MS of the EDB, should wider access to the search tool be granted e.g. to Art. 36 organisations? (3) how should the EDB develop in the future?

With regards to the time needed for filling in an application, some FPs reported that the online form is not very user-friendly and is rather quite time consuming. As to the search interface, FPs mentioned that the use made by EFSA of the tool remains valid and important. Instead, MS often make use of their national pools of expertise and so there is low use made of the search tool as a source of expertise. They consider, however, that opening the use of the EDB search tool to additional third parties, such as Art. 36 organisations and relevant research organisations, may increase the use of the EDB as a cooperation tool. Finally, some FPs questioned why information on expert profiles is not always up-to-date.

Action 1: FPs to continue identifying national databases that could feed into EFSA's EDB.

Action 2: AFSCO to explore the feasibility of opening the EDB search tool to additional external users (e.g. Art. 36 organisations, research organisations, etc.).

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/131009.htm>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/131210.htm>

6 RELEVANT ISSUES FROM THE LAST ADVISORY FORUM MEETING

The Chair introduced Jeff Moon, Deputy Head of the AFSCO Unit, who provided an overview of the relevant issues from the last (50th) Advisory Forum (AF) meeting (occurred in Parma, 05-06.12.2013). Particular reference was made to key strategic discussions concerning the Scientific Cooperation Review, improving network cooperation and work plan sharing, as well as a breakout group session on developing a common EU Risk Assessment Agenda and an update on the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The meeting also touched upon other topics such as the GMO Panel and network feedback, Hepatitis A tracing activity, the EDB Survey and the Staff Exchange Scheme. The AF meeting was organised back to back with the AFCWG meeting and a joint session between AF and AFCWG members took place. Key topics addressed during the joint meeting concerned the revised Terms of Reference for the AFCWG, methodology for developing a clear communications' index, international cooperation on risk assessment and a presentation from DE on Risk Communication – BfR risk profile. Further details on the AF meeting and joint meeting with the AFCWG are available on the respective final minutes³.

FPs expressed some concerns about the lack of clarity on the current lists of members of the scientific networks and as well on the designation process. Jeff Moon replied that the designation process and subsequent updating of lists are tasks being centralised in AFSCO. Once this process is concluded, the lists will be shared with FPs on a regular basis.

Jeff Moon also informed that a presentation on key outcomes of the AFCWG meeting had been scheduled to be given by a Communications colleague who was unable to attend the FP meeting. It was agreed that the presentation⁴ prepared would be shared with FPs.

Action 3: AFSCO to share with FPs, on ScienceNet, the presentation⁴ on feedback from the last meeting of the AFCWG.

6.1 REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The Chair informed FPs on the current state-of-play of the draft paper on Enhancing Scientific Cooperation. The key draft recommendations included on the paper were highlighted, with specific reference to possible new FP tasks in the area of sharing of work planning, provision of support to members of EFSA's scientific networks and on training in risk assessment, all to be formally included in the FP Agreements for 2015. As next steps, the Chair highlighted the discussion and possible endorsement of the draft paper at the coming (51st) AF meeting in March 2014, publication of the final report during the first quarter of 2014 and development of a Scientific Cooperation Roadmap for endorsement by EFSA's Management Board in June 2014.

With regards to training in risk assessment, Sérgio Potier Rodeia clarified that the syllabus developed in the context of the 2012/2013 BTSF Training in Risk Assessment

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/131205.htm>

⁴ https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_32_0_229_0_-1_47/http://bea-aps.efsa.eu.int;11930/collab/do/document/overview?projID=80696&folderID=1293231

initiative will soon be made available for information and possible use at national/regional level⁵.

Action 4: AFSCO to share with FPs the latest version of the syllabus developed in the context of the 2012/2013 BTSF Training in Risk Assessment initiative⁵.

6.2 DEVELOPING A RISK ASSESSMENT AGENDA

The Chair gave the floor to Jeff Moon, who briefed FPs on the current initiative for developing an EU Risk Assessment Agenda jointly with institutional partners, including MS. Following a request from EFSA's MB, the key headings for this document were identified during the course of the breakout group session taken place on the occasion of the last AF meeting. These include identifying common priorities with MS, building risk assessment capacity, risk assessment approaches and models, research and data collection, and other key topics such as endocrine disruptors, nutrigenomics, sweeteners energy drinks, amongst others. The final document aims to be incorporated into the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap for endorsement by end of 2014.

In the context of the plenary discussion that followed, Luca Busani (IT) mentioned the existence of 2 projects aiming at identifying common priorities under the area of animal health and welfare. The links to these two projects, named "DISCONTTOOLS"⁶ and "Era-Net ANIHW"⁷, will be shared with FPs.

Action 5: IT to share with AFSCO and FPs the links to the two ongoing projects (named "DISCONTTOOLS"⁶ and "Era-Net ANIHW"⁷) aimed at identifying common priorities under the area of animal health and welfare.

7 UPDATE ON THE SELF REVIEW OF EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS

The Chair introduced Marina Koussathana, who provided FPs an update on the self review of EFSA's scientific networks. The review process revealed that the work of the scientific networks remains relevant and consistent with the respective Management Board decision⁸, contributing to a positive collaboration between EFSA and national organisations on specific domains. The review process also allowed the identification of problems and the establishment of recommendations for addressing such problems. Particularly relevant for FPs is the recommendation concerning the role of FPs in facilitating the exchange of information between network representatives and AF members at national level.

8 FEEDBACK FROM THE DISCUSSION GROUP ON A GUIDELINE FOR COORDINATION OF THE INFORMATION FLOW BETWEEN THE AF, FPs AND EFSA'S SCIENTIFIC NETWORKS

The Chair introduced Sérgio Potier Rodeia, Scientific Officer of the AFSCO Unit, who presented the background and objectives for setting up this guideline. The floor was then be given to Adrienne Pittman (FR) for presenting the information flow between AF members, FPs and network representatives; Luca Busani (IT) for presenting the flowchart

⁵ https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_32_0_229_0_-1_47/http://bea-aps.efsa.eu.int;11930/collab/do/document/overview?projID=91473&folderID=1231286

⁶ <http://www.discontools.eu/>

⁷ <http://www.anihwa.eu/>

⁸ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/doc/panelnetworksrop.pdf>

representing the information flow; and to Gorgias Garofalakis (GR) for presenting Annex I of the guideline, containing general information, mostly relevant for new AF members, FPs and network representatives.

FPs expressed the view that the guideline is, overall, a good document for reference and is perceived to be useful at national level to strengthen the FPs coordinating role of the information flow between AF members and network representatives. Some FPs indicated that they have already started to promote coordination meetings between the AF member and network representatives but have faced difficulties, such as network representatives not feeling the need for such coordination to occur (i.e. they could report directly to the AF member) or indicating that they are sometimes dealing with information of confidential nature that cannot be shared. It was also suggested to streamline the guideline in order to align the text description of the information flow, the summary table on the information flow and the respective flowchart. It was finally acknowledged that in each MS there is a different reality and that it should be given the possibility for MS to adopt the guideline as it is or to adapt to such national reality. The latter was considered a good idea and a disclaimer summarising this concept was agreed to be included in the guideline.

The Chair clarified that, as a next step, the guideline will be updated according to comments received and presented at the coming AF meeting. Follow up on improving and adopting the guideline will resume after discussions held at the coming AF meeting.

Action 6: AFSCO to update the guideline according comments received and table it, for discussion, at the coming AF meeting.

9 PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE 2013 FP REPORTING AND FP PRIORITIES FOR 2014

Sérgio Potier Rodeia presented to FPs the preliminary results stemming from the 2013 FP reporting. During the presentation, reference was made to the development of the main FP activities based on chosen indicators for the past years, and as well to an analysis of the use made of the FP budget. The presentation concluded with the draft FP priorities for 2014, for plenary discussion.

FPs indicated that, although there seems to be an apparent decrease in some of the indicators chosen for representing FP activities, this could be explained by a degree of underreporting and by the fact that most of the work is currently carried out more efficiently. Furthermore, time spent on debriefing the AF member has increased overtime and may also be underreported.

FPs agreed with the priorities identified for their work in 2014, namely to: (a) continue to improve the quality of the exchange of scientific information, in particular via the IEP and email, while exploring other possible communication tools; (b) contribute to maintain the Art. 36 List of Organisations up-to-date; (c) continue to promote EFSA's EDB; (d) continue to expand national networks for information exchange, in order to aim covering all EFSA's remit; (e) maintain/further develop FP and national websites, and promote other communication activities in cooperation with the AFCWG member, increasing EFSA's scientific visibility; (f) contribute to the coordination of the information flow between AF members and national representatives in scientific networks; (g) promote training in RA by stimulating applications to new BTSF courses and organising national/regional trainings by use of the available BTSF training material. The Chair

proposed the inclusion of one additional priority - (h) to support the promotion of the 2014 call for EFSA's SC and Panels - which was agreed unanimously by participants.

10 EFSA STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

The Chair introduced Lucia de Luca, Stakeholder Relations Officer at the AFSCO Unit, who briefed FPs on EFSA's stakeholder initiatives, an important element of EFSA's commitment to openness, transparency and dialogue. Specific reference was made to the Stakeholder Consultative Platform and respective consultative groups. The presentation ended with a series of open questions for plenary discussion.

FPs noted the existence of different realities in each MS with regards to a stakeholder policy. They also indicated that more accurate feedback on the questions raised can be provided by the AFCWG members, as the answers fall more within their area of activity. It was also indicated that some of the information being asked may have already been reported in the context of the recent stakeholder mapping exercise carried out during the course of 2013.

11 ISSUES RAISED BY FOCAL POINTS

11.1 ANSES'S (FR) WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014

The Chair gave the floor to Adrienne Pittman (FR) who briefed participants on ANSES's (FR) work programme for 2014. The presentation touched upon the most important policy milestones for 2014, in particular the new law on higher education and research, the French Bill on the future of farming, the Public Health Bill, and the new European Regulation on biocides, amongst other topics. Reference was made to specific activities foreseen for 2014 in the area of food safety, animal health and plant health.

Action 7: reminder for FPs to continue uploading on the IEP their annual work programmes, and in case of any difficulties to contact the AFSCO Colleague Stylianos Koulouris (Stylianos.KOULOURLIS@efsa.europa.eu).

11.2 WHAT CONSUMERS CAN DO FOR REDUCING CHEMICAL HAZARDS THROUGH FOOD

Eleni Ioannou-Kakouri (CY) briefed participants of the information developed in CY to brief consumers how they can reduce their exposure to chemical hazards occurring in food. The key objective of this initiative is to inform consumers that, with responsible choices, they can have a positive influence on a healthy and safe diet. The presentation included useful guidelines that are delivered to consumers via lectures and leaflets in a targeted manner. FPs asked permission for using the presentation, which was granted by CY.

11.3 RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK RANKING IN THE FOOD CHAIN

Hub Noteborn (NL) presented FPs a national initiative for use of risk ranking as a starting point for risk-based priority setting and resource allocation. The main aim is to create an integrated risk diagram for pathogens, chemicals and consumer products that can be used by risk managers in their decision processes. Reference was made to key concepts, such as risk metrics, and as well to the approach used by EFSA for identifying and ranking public health hazards in meat (in the context of the scientific opinion for modernising meat inspection procedures in the EU). The presentation ended with an invitation for FPs

to share information on this topic. Several FPs reported similar initiatives in different domains. The Chair concluded the discussion mentioning that a dedicated area will be created on ScienceNet for sharing of documents on this subject.

Action 8: AFSCO to create a dedicated area on ScienceNet for sharing documentation regarding risk assessment and risk ranking.

Action 9: FPs to, when prompted, share available national documentation on risk assessment and risk ranking on the ScienceNet folder created for this purpose.

11.4 CUMULATIVE AND AGGREGATED EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES (ACROPOLIS)

Hub Noteborn (NL) presented the Acropolis⁹ project, which had the overall objective to improve risk assessment strategies in Europe by developing a scientifically sound framework for cumulative and aggregate risk assessment of pesticides, accessible for all actors involved in European risk assessment and risk management. The project was funded through the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7) and involved 11 participants from universities and regulatory bodies from 6 countries. EFSA will work with the model developed by the project aiming a more comprehensive aggregate exposure assessment at European level.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 CALL FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND PANELS IN 2014

The Chair introduced Isabelle Hubert, Officer of the EFSA Communications Channels Unit, who briefed FPs on the activities planned for the promotion of the upcoming call for the SC and 8 scientific Panels, scheduled to be launched early April 2014. During the presentation, emphasis was placed on the specific support FPs may provide in promoting the call, paying particular attention to target (a) certain areas of expertise where gaps were identified in previous panel renewal exercises; and (b) emerging scientific fields (e.g. nanotechnology). To this purpose, FPs will be provided with promotional material, including information on the abovementioned gaps, as well as slides for promoting the call and information on the application forms. In addition to the regular promotional channels used at national level (e.g. websites, emails sent to relevant national networks), FPs were invited to organise dedicated FP events for promotion of the call or to promote the call in relevant national events occurring in the country during the period of the call.

Action 10: AFSCO to provide FPs the promotional material for the upcoming 2014 call for the SC and Panels when available.

Action 11: FPs to promote the upcoming call for the SC and Panels. FPs to consider organising dedicated promotional FP events and/or to promote the call in relevant national events occurring during the period of the call.

12.2 EFSA'S PROMOTIONAL VIDEO ON GRANTS AND PROCUREMENT

The Chair introduced the EFSA video entitled "EFSA's Grants and Procurements - enhancing scientific cooperation"¹⁰. The Chair thanked Hub Noteborn (NL) for his

⁹ <http://www.acropolis-eu.com>

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSZL4Qt2zLE>

contribution and participation in this EFSA video. At the end of the video, FPs were asked to make available the video to the relevant national networks.

12.3 GRANTS & PROCUREMENT

Ilias Papatryfon, Head of the EFSA Planning and Monitoring Team of the Risk Assessment and Scientific Assistance Directorate, briefed participants on upcoming grants and procurement calls expected to occur during the first two quarters of 2014. Reference was made to calls grouped in 5 categories (evidence generation, evidence collection and synthesis, data collection, methods development, training) and also to one horizontal framework contract for the delivery of multiple scientific services in different domains.

After discussion, the Chair highlighted the important role that FPs play in triggering the establishment of possible interested parties and in the setting up of consortia for the different calls. It was also agreed to share with FPs the presentations made in a recent event occurred in Zagreb, Croatia, concerning the grants and procurement schemes¹¹.

Action 12: AFSCO to share with FPs the presentations made by EFSA in a recent event occurred in Zagreb, Croatia, concerning grants and procurement schemes¹¹.

12.4 UPDATE ON THE EXTERNAL REVIEW OF IMPACT OF PAST GRANTS & PROCUREMENT OUTPUTS

The Chair briefed FPs on the current state-of-play of this external review, aiming to assess the impact of past grants and procurement project outputs and support EFSA in drawing conclusions and recommendations for future outsourcing of scientific work. To this end, the Chair informed participants that some FPs were contacted for an interview and that the contractor delivering this service requested to directly contact some other FPs for additional phone interviews. After plenary consultation, all FPs agreed to share their contact details with the contractor. In addition, organisations having applied or participated in past grants and procurement calls will receive an online survey and possibly be contacted for an interview in March 2014.

The Chair also informed FPs that, responding to the requests for more detailed information on the participation of organisations in grants and procurement calls/projects, AFSCO will provide FPs with country briefings by end of March 2014.

Adrienne Pittman (FR) informed that ANSES has carried out in the recent past a similar exercise and that the respective reports will be shared with EFSA, for information.

12.5 STATE-OF-PLAY OF PORTUGUESE ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE ART. 36 LIST

Graça Mariano (PT) briefed participants on the current state-of-play of PT organisations on the Art. 36 List. The presentation reported the outcome of a meeting held in PT with almost all Art. 36 organisations, with the objective to update organisations about EFSA's activities and identify issues and actions towards the review and updating of information in organisations' profiles on the Art.36 Database.

¹¹ https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_32_0_229_0_-1_47/http://bea-aps.efsa.eu.int;11930/collab/do/document/overview?projID=80696&folderID=1293231

12.6 FEEDBACK ON USE OF A TEMPLATE FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITHIN THE FP NETWORK

The Chair gave the floor to Sérgio Potier Rodeia who briefed participants on experiences had so far on the use of this template. To date, only four entries have been registered in the respective numbering table. As feedback collected during the meeting, Esther Heller (UK) raised the need for the procedure guidance explaining how to register requests for exchange of information within the FP network and check documents out and in of ScienceNet to be updated and further detailed; and Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry (ES) reminded FPs, when sending out requests and after receiving all inputs, to provide feedback on all replies received.

Given the short experience accumulated so far on the use of the template, it was proposed to extend the testing period until the next FP meeting in June 2014, when a final decision on adopting the template should be agreed upon. The proposal was endorsed by participants unanimously.

Action 13: AFSCO to update and further detail the procedure guidance explaining how to register requests for exchange of information within the FP network and check them out and in of ScienceNet¹².

12.7 BROCHURE ON COOPERATION BETWEEN BELGIUM AND EFSA

The Chair introduced Laurence Ballieux (BE), who shared with participants the recently produced brochure illustrating the different elements of cooperation between Belgium and EFSA. The Chair highlighted the initiative and the quality of the final brochure, inviting others FPs to produce similar materials that help raising the visibility of the national Competent Authorities and EFSA.

12.8 FOCAL POINT MEETINGS IN 2014

The dates scheduled for the coming FP meetings in 2014 are:

- 20th FP meeting: 04-05 June, Parma, Italy.
- 21st FP meeting: 08-09 October, Berlin, Germany.

On this Point, Adrienne Pittman (FR), jointly with other FPs, suggested that, considering the possible role to be allocated to FPs in coordinating the information flow, at national level, between network representatives and AF members, it would be good to align the FP meetings with the AF meetings. The Chair agreed that the idea brings advantages and the possibility of having 4 FP meetings instead of 3, as it is the case for the AF, could be considered, but recommended its discussion at a later stage, when the revised list of tasks to be allocated to FPs on the 2015 FP Agreements will be clearly defined.

Given the high turnover on the FP representation, the Chair suggested that a training session should be organised during the coming FP meeting in June 2014, focusing on the key activities expected to be carried out by FPs all year round, including the use of the cooperation tools. FPs appreciated the idea and agreed with the proposal of the Chair. In this context, the Chair also informed FPs that, on the occasion of the 18th FP meeting (09-10.10.2013), an information session was provided to EFSA staff with the support of the

¹² https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_32_0_229_0_-1_47/http://bea-aps.efsa.eu.int;11930/collab/do/document/overview?projID=91473&folderID=1230277

FPs from ES and IT with the aim to inform EFSA staff of the regular activities of FPs. The session also allowed EFSA staff the opportunity to address questions directly to FPs. The presentations delivered during this training session will be uploaded on ScienceNet¹³.

Action 14: AFSCO to organise a training session for interested FPs at the coming FP meeting in June 2014, focusing on the key activities carried out by FPs, including the use of the existing cooperation tools; FPs to suggest possible topics for training.

Action 15: AFSCO to upload on ScienceNet the presentations made by ES and IT during the information session to EFSA staff on 10.10.2013¹³.

12.9 OWNERSHIP OF DATA FROM GRANTS AND PROCUREMENT SCHEMES & SHARING OF DATA FROM EFSA'S DATABASES

Dennis Jensen (DK) thanked EFSA for the reply received on the letter sent by BfR (DE), ANSES (FR) and DTU (DK) on current ownership rules in EFSA grant agreements. Dennis stated his contentment with the fact that EFSA is currently considering the possibility of changing the ownership clauses in the grant agreements, which currently foresee the exclusive right for EFSA to use project results for a period of two years, with the aim to eliminate it or at least reduce it if considered essential. ANSES (FR) and BfR (DE) also expressed their appreciation of the developments. The Chair also clarified that if an organisation wishes to use results, it could always ask EFSA for consent to do so.

A second item raised concerned access to data from EFSA's databases. The Chair clarified that access to data, in general, needs to be framed appropriately in the sense that the request needs to specify not only the type of data to be accessed but also the intended purpose of use of the data. It was also mentioned that access to data that includes personal information is governed by the provisions of Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001 (Data Protection Regulation¹⁴).

12.10 THE NEW SPANISH AGENCY FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION (AECOSAN)

The Chair gave the floor to Cristina Alonso-Andicoberry (ES) who informed participants about the merge, as of 03.02.2014, of the former Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition (AESAN) and the National Institute for Consumer Affairs (INC) into the new Spanish Agency for Consumer Affairs, Food Safety and Nutrition (AECOSAN). No changes have occurred of the President and at the Executive Director level.

OTHER SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luca Busani (IT) informed participants about the FORE-Med workshop of experts that will be taking place in Rome on 20-21.03.2014, concerning the development of research activities in the field of animal health and welfare (including zoonoses) in the Mediterranean region. This is an initiative that spin offs from the ERA-Net STAR-IDAZ project and is in line with other EU initiatives like EPI South.

¹³ https://sciencenet.efsa.europa.eu/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_32_0_229_0_-1_47/http/bea-aps.efsa.eu.int;11930/collab/do/document/overview?projID=91473&folderID=1353668

¹⁴ https://secure.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/EDPS/DataProt/Legislation/Reg_45-2001_EN.pdf

CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting, thanking participants for their attendance and active contributions in the various discussions. He wished for a continued and fruitful collaboration between EFSA and FPs during the course of 2014.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

| Reference | Who | What |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Action 1 | FPs | to continue identifying national databases that could feed into EFSA's EDB. |
| Action 2 | AFSCO | to explore the feasibility of opening the EDB search tool to additional external users (e.g. Art. 36 organisations, research organisations, etc.). |
| Action 3 | AFSCO | share with FPs, on ScienceNet, the presentation ⁴ on feedback from the last meeting of the AFCWG. |
| Action 4 | AFSCO | to share with FPs the latest version of the syllabus developed in the context of the 2012/2013 BTSF Training in Risk Assessment initiative ⁵ |
| Action 5 | ITALY | to share with AFSCO and FPs the links to the two ongoing projects (named "DISCONTTOOLS ⁶ " and "Era-Net ANIHWA ⁷ ") aimed at identifying common priorities under the area of animal health and welfare. |
| Action 6 | AFSCO | to update the guideline according comments received and table it, for discussion, at the coming AF meeting. |
| Action 7 | FPs | reminded to continue uploading on the IEP their annual work programmes, and, in case of difficulties, to contact AFSCO (Stylianios Koulouris - Stylianios.KOULOURLIS@efsa.europa.eu). |
| Action 8 | AFSCO | to create a dedicated area on ScienceNet for sharing documentation regarding risk assessment and risk ranking. |
| Action 9 | FPs | to, when prompted, share available national documentation on risk assessment and risk ranking on the ScienceNet folder created for this purpose. |
| Action 10 | AFSCO | to provide FPs the promotional material for the upcoming 2014 call for the SC and Panels when available. |
| Action 11 | FPs | to promote the upcoming call for the SC and Panels. FPs to consider organising dedicated promotional FP events and/or to promote the call in relevant national events occurring during the period of the call. |
| Action 12 | AFSCO | to share with FPs the presentations made by EFSA in a recent event occurred in Zagreb, Croatia, concerning grants and procurement schemes ¹¹ . |
| Action 13 | AFSCO | to update and further detail the procedure guidance explaining how to register requests for exchange of information within the FP network and check them out and in of ScienceNet ¹² . |
| Action 14 | AFSCO & FPs | to organise a training session for interested FPs at the coming FP meeting in June 2014, focusing on the key activities carried out by FPs, including the use of the existing cooperation tools. FPs to suggest possible topics for training. |
| Action 15 | AFSCO | to upload on ScienceNet the presentations made by ES and IT during the information session to EFSA staff on 10.10.2013 ¹³ . |