



**Food
Standards
Agency**
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Workshop on Foodborne Viruses

- EFSA and the UK have been in further discussion on the topic of foodborne viruses following the presentation of the ACMSF report and discussions at the 55th Advisory Forum meeting.
- The level of interest in this within the Advisory Forum has strongly suggested this could be an area to develop further, in line with the objectives of the Scientific Cooperation Roadmap.
- The UK has proposed to organise an international workshop in this area and EFSA has agreed to financially support this event.
- A teleconference with the MS that showed initial interest at the AF meeting was held on the 1st of June to set a general outline for the workshop.

Workshop on Foodborne Viruses

- **Aim of the workshop:** to identify knowledge gaps and issues to be tackled in the risk assessment area. The workshop aims to be action oriented and to help coordinating future activities at national level.
- **Main topics:** The majority of participants agreed that the workshop should focus primarily on the following viruses:
 - **Norovirus**
 - **Hepatitis A**
 - **Hepatitis E**
- **Audience for the workshop:** virologists, microbiologists, risk assessors but potentially also risk managers and policy makers.

Workshop on Foodborne Viruses

- **Workshop outline:**
 - Epidemiology and public health impact of foodborne viruses
 - Methods for viruses in the food chain
 - Control options for viruses in the food chain
 - Going forward
- **Expert participants:**
 - Good balance of expertise required
 - International experts from outside the EU to be considered
 - Input from MS to nominate potential candidates

Workshop on Foodborne Viruses

- **Format for the workshop:** aim to be extremely interactive, few expert talks and more opportunities for open discussions. The following formats have been taken into consideration:
 - EFSA Scientific Colloquia
 - Open Space
- **Tentative dates for the workshop:**
 - Planned for early 2016, most likely **February 2016**
 - 2-3 day event
 - Hosted in UK, location to be decided, close to transport links to facilitate international travel

Next steps

- UK and EFSA will coordinate the formation of an **international organising committee**, to define the details of the workshop.
- The committee will include UK and EFSA representatives and **volunteers from other MS**.
- Organising committee to meet before the end of June and subsequently on a monthly basis to monitor progress.
- MS will be requested to provide input on expert participants from their countries.