

NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE EFSA BUDGET 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Article 34 of EFSA Financial Regulation foresees that EFSA submit for approval to its Management Board any amendment to the budget. This amending budget is subsequently published in the EU official Journal.

Subject of this amendment

To integrate in EFSA budget the additional resources made available through the grant contract with EFSA signed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) in September 2015.

Purpose

The purpose of the grant contract is to finance the implementation of the action entitled: "Preparatory measures for the participation of the candidate and the potential candidate countries in EFSA".

Implementation

EFSA and DG NEAR concluded a grant contract of EUR 600.000 which will be paid in one instalment. The implementation period of 26 months of the action shall begin on 1st October 2015.

The Board is asked to integrate into EFSA 2015 Budget the 0.6 M€ financial contribution from DG NEAR.

Pre-accession programme 2015-2017

Food safety is an important issue in the accession negotiations. Therefore it is essential that the Candidate and the Potential Candidate countries are informed and involved in EFSA's operations, making it possible to take part in its activities on equal footing upon accession. The Candidate countries, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have participated in earlier programmes. Montenegro, Serbia and Albania have been accepted as Candidate countries respectively in December 2010, March 2011 and June 2014, while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo¹ remain Potential Candidate countries. Being part of the information networks will also benefit these countries, as they will be able to focus on the issues prioritised by EFSA and it will enable them to warn their consumers and neighbours of problems detected at an early stage which may prevent food crises.

In July 2013, during the previous programme implementation (2011-2014), Croatia became the 28th Member State. Croatia's food safety authorities and experts from the Croatian Food Agency (HAH) and other Croatian food safety institutions have been participating in EFSA's Pre-Accession Programme since 2006. The joint activities with EFSA have enabled their experts to become familiar with developments in the EU that relate to food safety and to exchange views and opinions with colleagues from EFSA and EU Member States.

The continuation of the cooperation between EFSA and the Pre-Accession countries, under the new IPA programme, was discussed and agreed at the Final meeting of the previous Programme (September 2014) organised with the National coordinators. The new Programme will continue to build on the progress made within the Programmes in recent years and to involve the countries in its work. The focus will be on the risk assessment capacity building, more involvement of the scientific community from the IPA countries in EFSA's working groups and projects and to enhance data exchange.

The overall objective is to contribute to approximation of national legislation to *acquis* Chapter 12. An early introduction into how the European Food Safety Authority operates, including how to exchange of data and information concerning emerging issues, scientific expertise and findings will serve to help the beneficiary countries acquaint themselves with the risk analysis framework, as required with the EU Regulation 178/2002.

The specific objective is to increase preparedness of the competent bodies in the beneficiary countries, which are active in the fields relating to the work carried out by EFSA, the European Commission and the EU Member States for their future participation in EFSA activities.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

The EU enlargement carries with it the responsibility for the Authority to acquaint new countries and involve them appropriately; therefore the Programme aims to prepare the countries for participating in all relevant activities of EFSA, where also

Member States are involved, as far as envisaged by the legislation.

The programme is funded by the Commission - DG NEAR which makes the funds available to EFSA through a grant contract. The agreement with DG NEAR on the grant contract was achieved in September 2015 and it covers a period of 26 months from the 1st of October 2015 onwards. The full amount of EUR 600.000 will be paid in one installment upon the contract signature.

The Management Board is required to adopt the decision to integrating the revenue from DG NEAR into the 2015 budget.