

Note to the attention of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority

Discussion on the approach to the review of EFSA's Policy on independence and scientific decision making process of 2011

In June this year, this Management Board discussed the review of EFSA's Policy on independence and scientific decision making process which it had adopted in December 2011. The Board confirmed the strength and relevance of the Policy and asked EFSA to put forward a working process for fine tuning the interest management approach outlined in the Policy.

The presentation on this topic proposes the establishment of a Working Group composed of three Board members and supported by EFSA staff. The WG would aim at producing a proposal for a reviewed Policy for the March 2017 meeting of this Board. This proposal should address *inter alia* the following topics:

- Definition of conflict of interest;
- Financial / economic interests;
- Risk based approach for competing interest management;
- Cooperation with "food safety organisations" and other public interest bodies;
- Cooling off periods;
- Research funding and other scientific activities.

The Board is invited to review and endorse the proposed approach including the timeline and envisaged involvement of the Board, the suggested areas of attention and the stakeholder engagement.