

Update on the procedure for the renewal of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels

Note for the attention of the Management Board

This note is to inform the Management Board on the state of play concerning the 2017 renewal of the Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources Added to Food (ANS) and the Panel on Food Contact Materials, Enzymes, Flavourings, and Processing Aids (CEF).

The current members of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels are serving a three-year term of office, which is due to expire on 30 June 2017.

For this reason and in accordance with Article 28(5) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, EFSA published a call for expression of interest for membership in the two Scientific Panels on 18 May 2016. The deadline for submission of applications was 30 June 2016.

To promote the call, EFSA developed a communications plan and conducted a number of communications activities to attract potential applicants. These included, besides the publication of the call in the Official Journal of the European Union and the EFSA website, a press release at launch, use of social media, targeted mailing, sponsored web banners on scientific journals and further advertisement through key EFSA bodies and stakeholders.

A total of 223 experts applied to the call from 39 different countries; 191 applicants were retained eligible. Overall the number of applicants is in line with the previous renewal of the ANS and CEF Scientific Panels. To be noted is the increase in the share of female applicants compared to the 2013 call (from 40% to 45%) and a decrease in the average age of applicants (from 52 to 48 years). An overview of the applicants profile and the next step of the process is provided in the presentation.

The evaluation of valid and eligible applications is being carried out according to the selection criteria listed in the published call for expressions of interest. Before the evaluation of the eligible applications started, the EFSA Evaluation Team (EET) agreed on the interpretation of the selection criteria in order to achieve a consistent and objective approach for the scoring.

Two external evaluators were appointed by the EFSA Executive Director for review a sample of applications to ensure the evaluation and scoring of all valid and eligible applications was done in an objective and consistent manner. A meeting between the EFSA evaluators and the external evaluators is scheduled for mid-November 2016 with the participation of representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EFSA Management Board, as observers. The objective of the meeting is to discuss possible discrepancies between the EFSA evaluation and that performed by the external evaluators.

A detailed report on the evaluation of applicants, candidates proposed for appointment and placement of suitable candidates on the reserve list will be presented to the Management Board in March 2017.

It shall be noted here that due to a forthcoming legislative amendment¹ the mandate of the ANS, CEF and NDA (Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies) Scientific Panels is expected to be adjusted. Therefore, the term of office of the experts appointed to the new ANS and CEF Scientific Panels is likely to last for 1 year only (i.e. from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018). This also means that from July 2018 onwards the renewal cycle of all Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee would be aligned.

¹Draft COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the names and the areas of competence of the scientific panels of the European Food Safety Authority
http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares20163620913_en