



European Food Safety Authority

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND SCIENTIFIC PANELS FOLLOWING A THREE-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

1. In May 2003 the 8 Scientific Panels were established and all had their first meeting between 21-26 May (21 May: CONTAM, FEEDAP and NDA; 22 May: AFC, AHAW, BIOHAZ and PPR; 26 May: GMO). Successively the Scientific Committee was established and had its first meeting from 30 June-1 July 2003.

2. In accordance with Article 28.5 of Regulation 178/2002 the members of the Panels and the non-panel members of the Scientific Committee are all appointed for three years which is renewable. Hence, in May 2006 the Panels and SC need to be re-established. Members of the Panels and the SC may apply for a second term in the same Panel or in a different Panel while other experts from European Member States could also apply for a position on any of the Panels or the SC.

3. The issue of selecting candidates from as many European Member States as feasible with emphasis on new Member States was discussed earlier this year at the Management Board Meetings of January and March (documents MB 18.01.2005-7 and MB 10.03.2005-6, respectively) and at the Advisory Forum Meeting of April (document AF 03/04.02.2005-7). These documents explained ways to encourage potential candidates from new Member States to apply.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND AGREEMENT

Members of the SC/Panels appointed after the establishment of the Panels/SC

4. At the establishment of the various Panels not all Panels could be filled up to the maximum number of 21 experts as explained in document MB 10.03.2005-6. A number of these posts were filled at later dates. In addition a few Panel members resigned in the course of the 3 years period and have been replaced by new experts. Details of these appointments are provided in the table below.

5. As Article 28.5 of Regulation 178/2002 refers to the appointment of experts, not Panels, as being renewable, formally only those members who were appointed at the time of the establishment of the SC and Panels (May 2003) need to be replaced or re-appointed in May 2006. The experts appointed in the course of the three year period would successively be replaced or re-appointed at the end of their respective 3 year terms. However, in time this approach would gradually lead to the situation where the replacement/re-appointment of most SC/Panel members is scattered over each year which would require for the Management Board to approve at probably all its meetings –or by

written procedure- the appointment of small numbers of experts. It would most likely also require many more “Calls for Experts” than when all experts are replaced/re-appointed once every three years only.

	Number of experts					
	Appointed at the establishment of the Panel / SC in May 2003	Appointed after the establishment of the Panel / SC		Replaced		Total
		Nr.	Date	Nr.	Date	
AFC	17	3	June 2004	0		19 ¹
AHAW	19	2	June 2004	0		21
BIOHAZ	21	0		0		21
CONTAM	21	0		0		20 ¹
FEEDAP	20	1	June 2004	1	June 2004	21
GMO	21	0		1	July 2004	21
NDA	13	3	June 2004	0		16
PPR	18	3	June 2004	0		21
SC	6+8chairs	0		0		14

¹ One member resigned and has not yet been replaced

6. In order to avoid this administrative burden on the Management Board and the Secretariat it is suggested that every three years all experts will be replaced or re-appointed including those appointed sometime during the fixed 3 years term of the Panel (e.g. to replace resigned experts). Obviously chances are that the experts who have served less than 3 years might be re-appointed rather than replaced.

Establishment of a new Panel on Plant Health

7. In line with the orientations set out by the Management Board in the Authority's Work Programme for 2005, EFSA is to develop in the near future scientific and technical support as regards plant health issues. Whilst plant health currently falls within the remit of the Scientific Panel on Plant Health, Plant Protection Products and their Residues (PPR Panel), the panel lacks the necessary expertise to address plant health issues which includes, among others: entomology, nematology, mycology, virology, bacteriology, botany, agronomy, plant quarantine and plant disease epidemiology. Therefore it is considered necessary to establish a dedicated Scientific Panel together providing a pool of the required expertise fields in order to best address the specific scientific issues pertaining to the plant health area.

8. On that basis and subject to the Board's agreement, the Authority intends to formally request the European Commission to delete the plant health mandate from the PPR Panel and to set out a legal basis for a new Scientific Panel on Plant Health in accordance with Article 28 paragraph 4 of Regulation 178/2002. This Article allows the name and numbers of EFSA Scientific Panels to be adapted by the Commission "in the light of technical and scientific development", at the request of EFSA, following a comitology procedure.

9. It is essential that the new Scientific Panel on Plant Health becomes operational by the end of 2005. Therefore a call for applications for membership to the new Panel would be launched as soon as possible so that it can be filled with adequate expertise on time as from its establishment.