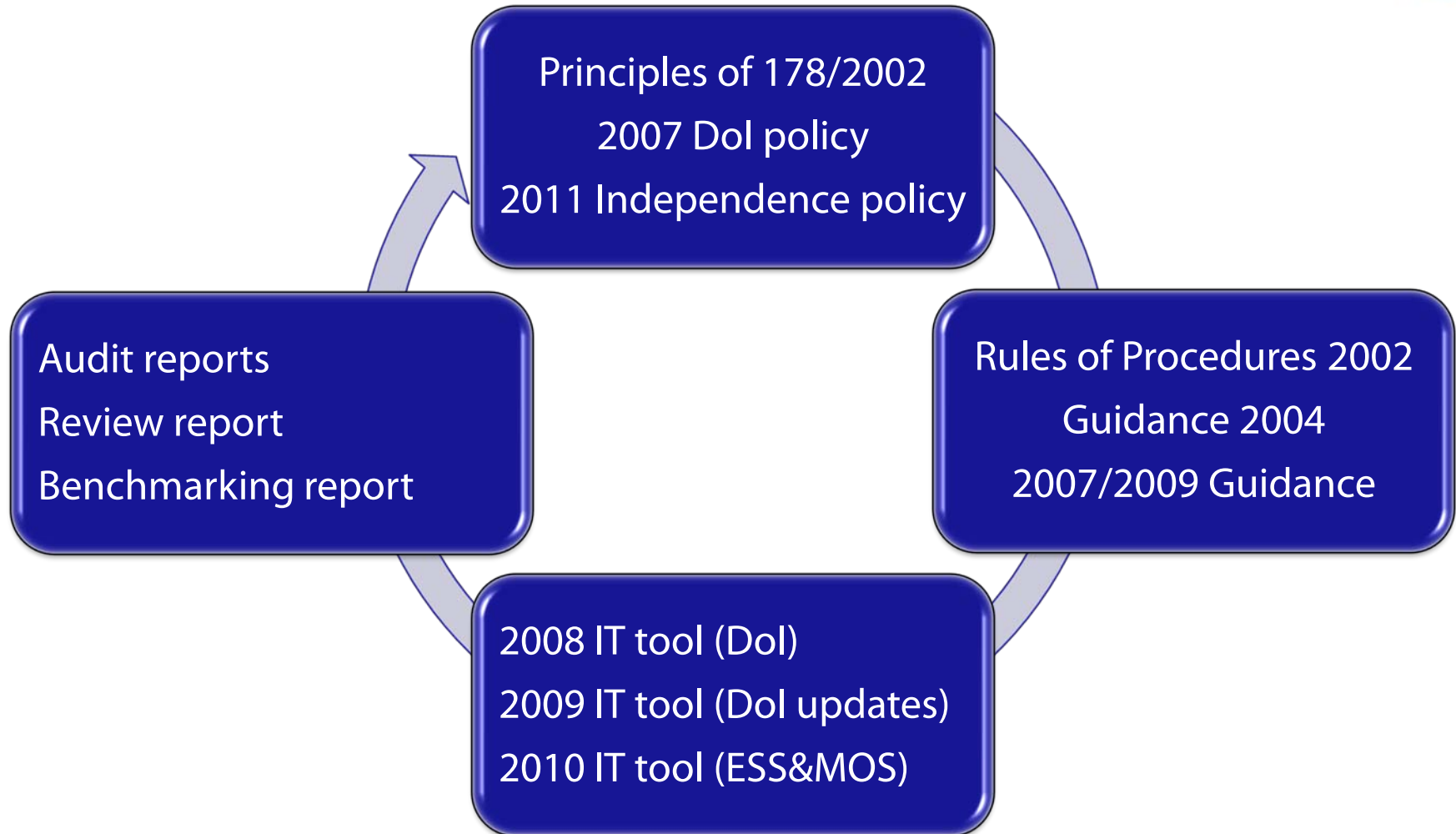




# **Draft Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-making Processes**

Management Board meeting  
Warsaw, 15 December 2011

# Independence Policy cycle



- Reflection paper discussed and endorsed by MB in March 2011
- In June 2011 Draft Policy endorsed by MB for public consultation
- Public consultation from July to mid September
- On 12 October dedicated Stakeholder Consultative Workshop
- Public Report on the consultation and on Workshop published prior to this MB meeting
- Draft Policy amended and presented to the Board

# What changes compared to 2007 Policy

- Establishing a comprehensive overarching approach to independence
- Contextualises EFSA's core values in the governance of its decision making process
- Improving previous Dol process
- Introducing new commitments, such as
  - Opening up risk assessment process
  - Systematic audit
  - Annual reporting

- General nature/unrelated to policy
  - e.g. criticism or concerns related to substances assessed by EFSA
- Impact on the Policy
  - e.g. adaption of the definition of Conflicts of Interests
- Impact on implementing acts
  - e.g. clearer outline of allowable interests for experts
- Impact on other horizontal documents
  - e.g. selection of working group experts

## Corporate governance

- Clarification regarding competences of Member States in the food safety institutional framework
- Recent changes introduced in the Rules of Procedure of the Board and adoption of the Code of Conduct

## 2. Changes to the Policy

### Scientific governance

- Selection criteria for members of the Working Groups
- Acknowledgment of relevance for Union policies of concept of public-private partnerships
- Acknowledgment of essential role of calls for data in the context of EFSA's data collection practices and importance of contribution from private sector

# 3. Changes to the Policy

## Openness and Transparency

- Role and limitations of hearing experts
- Possibility of opening up scientific committee and scientific panels – feasibility study 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012
- Newly established Application desk



## Assessing interests

- Clearer outline of allowable interests
- Amendment to definition of Conflict of Interest
- Reference to breach of trust process
- Prevention of Conflict of Interest of staff and former staff members
- Commitment to regular audit of the system
- Annual reporting on independence as of 2012

- Implementation by summer 2012
- Effect on several governance documents:
  - Implementing act on Declarations of interest;
  - Rules of Procedure of EFSA's Scientific Committee; and Scientific Panels;
  - Rules of procedure of EFSA Networks;
  - Decision on the selection of scientific experts;
  - Code of Conduct for Staff.