

Advisory Forum
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Memorandum of Understanding on independence common principles

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Trusted science for safe food

- ❖ 21 June 2017 – EFSA Management Board adopts an updated independence policy
- ❖ Cooperation with national and international authorities
 - Attention to activities unrelated to public interest duties
 - Application of EFSA rules on peer-review meetings highlight an overall convergence with national systems
 - Independence of MSs' representatives in scientific Networks to be ensured by each appointing authority in accordance with applicable legislative and regulatory framework
 - **Memorandum of Understanding to specify applicable standards**

- ❖ Members: Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the UK
- ❖ Scanning and benchmark of independence frameworks at national level
 - Independence and impartiality are relevant both at national and EU level
 - Lack of harmonisation on the manner in which independence is ensured
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding
 - Focus on high-level principles relevant for ensuring the independence of the professionals involved in the scientific risk assessment
- ❖ Purpose: take note of the overarching principles supporting the impartiality of food risk assessment* systems

* 'Food risk assessment' intended as comprising food, feed, plant health, animal health and animal welfare

❖ Overarching principles

- Independence
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Compliance

❖ Commitment to ensure independence of reciprocal systems

❖ Prerogative to apply own system when engaging with experts from other bodies

❖ Cooperation in the area of independence

- Advisory Forum Task Force aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and best practices among the signatories of the Memorandum

- ❖ Endorsement by the Advisory Forum subject to revisions addressing the discussion outcome
- ❖ Signature of the Memorandum at a following Advisory Forum meeting