

Draft Minutes¹

38th MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINT NETWORK Parma (EFSA Auditorium), 26-27 February 2019

Chair: Gisèle Gizzi

Members

Austria	<i>Johann Steinwider</i>
Belgium	<i>Frederic Denauw</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Lilyana Polihronova</i>
Croatia	<i>Sanja Miloš</i>
Cyprus	<i>Georgios Stavroulakis</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Petr Beneš</i>
Denmark	<i>Birgitte Helwich</i>
Finland	<i>Kirsi-Maarit Siekkinen</i>
Estonia	<i>Piret Priisalu</i>
France	<i>Celine Bahuon</i>
Germany	<i>Majlinda Lahaniatis</i>
Greece	<i>Foteini Tzoumanika</i> <i>Danai Papanastasiou</i>
Hungary	<i>Judit Sali</i>
Iceland	<i>Grimur Olafsson</i>
Ireland	<i>Grainne Redmond</i> <i>Edel Smith</i>
Italy	<i>Luca Busani</i> <i>Maria Girolama Falcone</i>
Latvia	<i>Elina Ciekure</i>
Lithuania	<i>Giedre Ciuberkyte</i>
Luxembourg	<i>Elisa Barillozzi</i>
Malta	<i>Giannella Pisani</i>
Netherlands	<i>Linda Kox</i>
Norway	<i>Danica Grahek-Ogden</i>
Poland	<i>Katarzyna Floryanowicz-Czekalska</i>
Portugal	<i>Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos</i>

¹ For more details on each session please listen to the respective audiocasts available online



Romania	<i>Bogdan Licarete</i>
Slovak Republic	<i>Marica Kuzmiak Theiszová</i>
Slovenia	<i>Blaža Nahtigal</i>
Spain	<i>Maria José Rubio</i>
Sweden	<i>Eva Warensjo Lemming</i>
United Kingdom	<i>Patrick Miller</i>

Observers

Switzerland	<i>Barbara Engeli</i>
Albania	<i>Shpresa Ohri</i>
Bosnia Herzegovina	<i>Nadja Ustamujic</i>
North Macedonia	<i>Sanja Ilieva</i>
Montenegro	<i>Ana Velimirovic</i>
Serbia	<i>Nadežda Dukić</i>
Turkey	<i>Muzaffer Nurseren Budak</i>
Kosovo*	<i>Fisnik Rexhepi</i>

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

FP Secretariat

<i>Julia Finger</i>	<i>Annafranca Loparco</i>
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EFSA

<i>Bernhard Url</i>	<i>Gisele Gizzi</i>
<i>Ilias Papatryfon</i>	<i>Karine Lheureux</i>
<i>Marco Cortopassi</i>	<i>Paul Devalier</i>
<i>Martina Kurisova</i>	<i>Filippo Conte</i>
<i>Gorgias Garofalakis</i>	<i>Cristina Alonso Andicoberry</i>
<i>Luisa Venier</i>	<i>Sergio Potier Rodeia</i>
<i>Tony Smith</i>	<i>Elisa Corsini</i>
<i>Anca Stoicescu</i>	<i>Agnes De Sesmaisons</i>
<i>Eileen O'Dea</i>	<i>Deimante Bikneryte</i>
<i>Gabriele Zancanaro</i>	<i>Sotiria-Eleni Antoniou</i>
<i>Yves Van der Stede</i>	<i>Alexandre Nougadere</i>

Apologies: none



1. Opening of the meeting

Bernhard Url opened the 38th Focal Point (FP) plenary meeting, welcoming FPs with an outlook on the future of Member States' (MS) involvement in EFSA's work.

2. Involvement of Focal Points and Advisory Forum in the EFSA Planning Cycle

Ilias Papatryfon from the Global Performance Services (GPS) Unit informed FPs about the involvement of the Advisory Forum (AF) in the EFSA Planning Cycle and how FPs could support this process. FPs are asked to volunteer and help to prepare the template for the AF input into EFSA's planning cycle.

Action Point 1: FPs to volunteer for helping preparing the template for AF input into EFSA's planning cycle

Action Point 2: EFSA to prepare simple overview on expectations of FP involvement in the EFSA planning cycle

3. Matters arising

EFSA's Health and Safety Info

The video was displayed at the beginning of the meeting providing external visitors with proper information on how to behave during an emergency event.

Action Points and Feedback from the last meeting

Julia Finger from the Engagement and Cooperation (ENCO) Unit informed that all Action Points from the last meeting have been completed and reminded FPs of the permanent Action of inserting FP national events into the [table on DMS](#).

FPs gave very positive feedback on the last meeting, appreciating the time to discuss their new tasks in detail.

Julia informed FPs that the meeting is audio-recorded and that the respective audiocasts will be published on EFSA's website. This pilot of recording FP meetings runs until the next meeting in May, included. Feedback on the added value and limitations of this new approach will be collected via a survey afterwards. The breakout session will not be audio-recorded.

Action Point 3: FPs to insert national events for 2019 into the [table on DMS](#)

Action Point 4: FPs to announce events to be mentioned in the March edition of the Scientific Cooperation newsletter

Action Point 5: EFSA to launch survey on audio-recording of FP meetings

Feedback on FP Reporting and Audit

Julia thanked FPs for the timely and qualitative reporting, and shared some best practices and recommendations. In the spirit of mutual learning it is suggested that reports are accessible for all FPs in the future.

The audit 2018 was concluded smoothly, thanks to timely and exhaustive information by the 2 FPs audited. Future audit procedures are being planned and should be leaner.

Action Point 6: FPs to express any eventual objection against accessibility of FP reports for the whole FP community on DMS

4. New FP Agreements

New tasks overview

Julia acknowledged that FPs have chosen the newly introduced FP tasks in high numbers. Following this, FPs are invited to express any need for training or support in the implementation of the tasks.

Action Point 7: FPs to express training and support needs for implementation of new tasks



Training needs

Karine Lheureux from the Application Desk (APDESK) Unit gave an overview on training material for support to applicants in the area of regulated products.

Action Point 8: EFSA to provide FPs with info pack on regulated products/apdesk activities

5. Grants & Procurement Work Programme

Marco Cortopassi from the Finance (FIN) Unit presented an overview of planned Grants and Procurement calls in 2019.

Action Point 9: EFSA to provide info pack on Grants and Procurement schemes, including open, closed and planned calls as well as project timelines.

Action Point 10: EFSA to send latest statistics on Art.36 involvement in Grants and Procurement to help them prioritising the organisations to be first included in the Art.36 list

6. EFSA's New World of Working

Paul Devalier from the Digital Transformation System (DTS) Unit gave a visionary outlook on the road to new ways of collaboration on global scale and the context of EFSA's remit.

7. Breakout sessions:

Workshop on the new Art.36 Process

A summary of the breakout session is available in ANNEX 1.

Presenting the SIGMA Project to observer countries

A summary of the SIGMA session is available in ANNEX 2.

8. Brexit Implications

Luisa Venier from the Legal and Assurance (LA) Unit briefly informed FPs about the scenarios affecting EFSA's work regarding the exit of the UK from the EU.

9. EU Risk Assessment Agenda Update

Sergio Potier Rodeia complemented to the e-mail that had been sent to FPs at year-end asking them to update the entries in the EU Risk Assessment Agenda (EURAA) regarding their country.

Action Point 11: FPs that have not provided the update yet, to update national entries in EURAA on DMS

10. Communicating Uncertainty

Tony Smith from the Communication (COM) Unit provided latest updates on EFSA's work regarding the communication on Uncertainty. Germany complemented by informing about a workshop on this topic that has been held the week before in the BfR. FPs expressed interest in training activities.

Action Point 12: Germany to share material of BfR workshop on Uncertainty

Action Point 13: EFSA to inform FPs about training opportunities in the areas of uncertainty and crisis exercises

11. Dietary Reference Values (DRV) Finder & Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Data Viz

FPs welcomed the new interactive tools, the DRV Finder and the AMR Data Viz, presented by Elisa Corsini from the Communication (COM) Unit. Scientific background information was provided by Anca Stoicescu from the Evidence Management (DATA) Unit and Agnes De Sesmaisons from the Nutrition (NUTRI) Unit. FPs showed interest in the translation of the DRV Finder.

Action Point 14: FPs to express interest in translation of DRV Finder



Action Point 15: EFSA to inform FPs about planned data visualisation material

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Workshop RA of gene drive modified insects

Julia Finger informed participants about a workshop on the problem formulation for the environmental risk assessment (RA) of gene drive modified insects. Registrations are open on the EFSA website until 22 March.

12.2. AGES Events

Johann Steinwider (AU) informed FPs about upcoming events and workshops in AGES.

12.3. Announcement of the Cyprus FP

Georgios Stavroulakis (CY) announced news from the FP in Cyprus, including MoU with Greece and Montenegro, RA in Aflatoxin B1 at FoodEx level 3 and a meta-data analysis of Cyprus EU MENU, which will also be presented in the next AF meeting.

12.4. FP meeting Sarajevo

Julia Finger provided an outlook on the 39th FP meeting to take place on 22-23 May in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. An open collaboration workshop will precede the meeting on 21 May PM. FPs are asked to provide information on collaboration activities with Pre-Accession countries.

Action Point 16: FPs to provide information on any collaboration activities with Pre-Accession countries

12.5. New Single Network on Chemical Data Monitoring

Eileen O'Dea from the Evidence Management (DATA) Unit provided information on the new Scientific Network of Chemical Data Collection, resulting from a merge of the former Networks on Veterinary Medicines Residues, Contaminants and Pesticides and including additives data collection. The first meeting is going to take place on 19-21 March in EFSA and up to 3 MS representatives can attend.

12.6. FSAI Scientific Conference

Grainne Redmond (IE) informed FPs about a scientific conference to be held in Dublin on 21-22 August 2019. Registrations and the call for abstracts are open.

12.7. Partnering Grant IDRISK – Improving Data Quality for Risk Assessment

Filipa Melo De Vasconcelos (PT) presented a partnering grant that has recently been kicked off and is aiming at the improvement of Data Quality in RA.

12.8. EU FORA Update

Cristina Alonso Andicoberry from the Engagement and Cooperation (ENCO) Unit provided an overview on the outcome of the EU Fellowship (EU FORA) calls and related statistics.

12.9. ANSES recent information and news

Celine Bahuon (FR) informed about recent opinions of ANSES and forthcoming events. The ANSES work programme for 2019 can be consulted on DMS as a background document to the meeting.

Action Point 17: FPs to disseminate information on workshops and events (12.1, 12.2, 12.6, 12.9)

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting, thanking all participants for their active contribution to the meeting.



SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Reference	Who	What
Action 1	FPs	volunteer for helping preparing the template for AF input into EFSA's planning cycle
Action 2	EFSA	prepare simple overview on expectations of FP involvement in the EFSA planning cycle
Action 3	FPs	insert national events for 2019 into the table on DMS
Action 4	FPs	announce events to be mentioned in the March edition of the Scientific Cooperation newsletter
Action 5	EFSA	launch survey on audiorecording of FP meetings
Action 6	FPs	express any eventual objection against accessibility of FP reports for the whole FP community on DMS
Action 7	FPs	express training and support needs for implementation of new tasks
Action 8	EFSA	provide info pack on Grants and Procurement schemes, including open, closed and planned calls as well as project timelines
Action 9	EFSA	send latest statistics on Art.36 involvement in Grants and Procurement to help them prioritising the organisations to be first included in the Art.36 list
Action 10	EFSA	send latest statistics on Art.36 involvement in Grants and Procurement for prioritisation regarding Art.36 organisations to be included in the list
Action 11	FPs	FPs that have not provided the update yet, to update national entries in EURAA on DMS
Action 12	GER	share material of BfR workshop on Uncertainty
Action 13	EFSA	inform FPs about training opportunities in the areas of uncertainty and crisis exercises
Action 14	FPs	express interest in translation of DRV Finder
Action 15	EFSA	inform FPs about planned data visualisation material
Action 16	FPs	provide information on any collaboration activities with Pre-Accession countries
Action 17	FPs	disseminate information on workshops and events (12.1, 12.2, 12.6, 12.9)

Document history

Document reference	Version 1.1
Prepared by	Julia Finger
Reviewed by	Gisele Gizzi
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