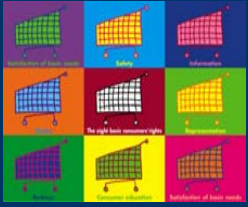


The role of consumers in the risk analysis process, and in particular risk assessment

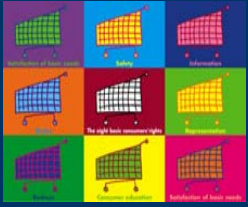
BEUC, the European
Consumers' Organisation

Stakeholder colloque
9-10 November, Berlin



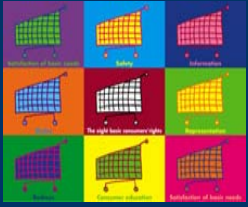
What do consumers expect from EFSA

- To provide:
 - unified,
 - excellent,
 - independent scientific advice
- based on an:
 - accountable and transparent operation



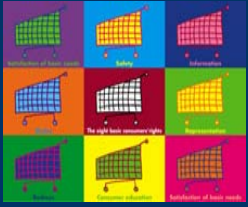
Consumer organisations' concrete expectations – the achievements

- Publication of agendas, papers and meeting minutes as early as possible
- Stakeholder meetings involving consumer representatives
- Public workshops



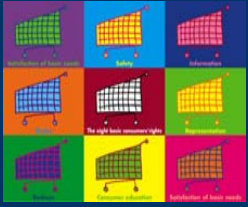
Consumer organisations' concrete expectations – improvements necessary

- Consultation on draft scientific opinions wherever possible
- Establishment of a consumer committee
- Development of a programme of consumer research to enable an understanding of how consumers perceive risks
- Clarity on how priorities are set, including the phrasing of scientific questions to the panels
- Getting more involved in nutrition related questions



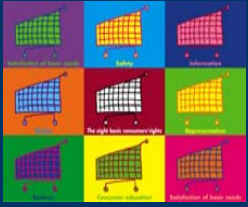
Consumer organisations' concrete expectations from the scientific panels

- Consumer involvement at the earliest possible stage in risk assessment
 - There are some opinions suggesting an observer status for consumer organisations in the panels
- Wherever possible scientific consultations to be held in public
- Publication of minority opinions
- Early information on important scientific opinions



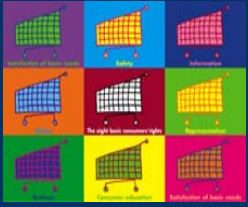
Consumer organisations' expectations from risk communication

- Risk communication must:
 - Explain conflicting scientific opinions
 - Be open and honest
 - Respond swiftly to concerns raised by media
 - Explain uncertainties



What should EFSA expect from consumer organisations

- Consumer organisations to:
 - Be considered as a trustworthy, reliable partner
 - Contribute to disseminating advise/information from EFSA to ordinary consumers via the network of consumer organisations
 - Actively take part in consultation processes, hearing, etc.



What should EFSA expect from consumer organisations

- Consumer organisations to:
 - Deliver consumer opinions
 - Establish a kind of rapid alert system between consumer organisations and EFSA to inform about food safety concerns
 - Use EFSA as an information source
 - Ask questions of consumer concern
 - Maintain regular contacts with representatives of EFSA