

## NOTE TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

### EFSA preparation in view of the withdrawal of the UK from the Union

On 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom (UK) notified the European Council of its intention to leave the European Union (EU), in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (so-called "Brexit").

A **Withdrawal Agreement** (WA) setting out the arrangements for the withdrawal has been negotiated under the lead, for the EU, of the Commission's **Taskforce on Article 50 (TF 50)**. The draft WA lays down a **transition period** from the date of entry into force of WA to 31 December 2020, with the possibility to renew it once (for up to one or two years) to be decided before July 2020 (Part IV, Articles 127-132).

The negotiations are over and the draft WA is now in the step of the **ratification** by the British Parliament, and by the European Parliament and Council.

Brexit will become effective from the date of entry into force of the WA or, failing that, two years after the notification, namely on **30 March 2019**, unless the European Council, in agreement with the Member State concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period.

Considering the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the ratification process, the TF 50 advised agencies not to rely on the transition period and prepare Brexit under the assumption that the UK will become a third country as of 30 March 2019.

EFSA has developed an action plan considering a scenario with no WA ratified. However, in order to prepare for the option of an orderly departure of the UK, the consequences linked to an agreed transition period are also presented. The action plan has been transmitted to DG SANTE.

The Management Board is invited to take note of the action plan.