



European Food Safety Authority

EFSA OSTEND COLLOQUE : SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER ON PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Introduction

1. Paper MB 03.12.2003-8 discussed at the December 3 December Management Board meeting, recorded the outcome of Ostend Colloque and proposed a number of consequential measures for EFSA. The Board agreed in principle to these measures but requested further information on their detailed implementation. The present Paper provides my proposals in this respect and should be read in conjunction with the previous paper.

Openers and transparency

2. It is intended enable public attendance at Board Meetings by seeking advance notice through the website of those wishing to attend in person. The period for giving notice would expire one week before the Board meeting in order to allow for the necessary logistic arrangements to be made. In consequence it will be necessary to post agendas for meetings on the website at least two weeks before the meeting to allow those interested in a particular meeting to attend. On the basis set out in the previous paper, it will also be necessary to hold such public meetings in Brussels in alternative premises to the Centre Borschette.

3. As discussed by the Board, members of the public who choose to attend Board meetings in person will have the right solely to observe. They will not be able to join in the debate.

4. This procedure is intended to proceed in parallel with webstreaming and not substitute for it. Continued webstreaming is likely to be particularly important when the Management Board meets away from Brussels (eg the forthcoming meeting is Dublin and meetings to be held at the permanent seat in Parma)

Openers and Transparency: Risk Assessment

5. It is not proposed to lay down a single procedure for increasing the opportunity for interested parties to input their views into the risk assessment process. Instead the Chairs of the Authority's Scientific Committee and Panels are to be encouraged to experiment with such participation as would seem to best suit the subject matter under discussion,

recognizing that the demand and most suitable method for stakeholder participation will properly vary.

6. Nothing will be done which in any way compromises the independent and private decision making process laid down in the Founding Regulation and which confers greater access to one interested party than another.

Scope of EFSA Risk Assessment

7. The need to deal with wider ranging issues is already accepted by the Management Board and being considered in the 2004 Work Programme concerning stakeholder involvement in risk communication.

8. The intention here is that the Executive Director should invite representatives of closely interested parties to help the Authority with the process of risk communication of particularly sensitive issues. Those involved will not be able to alter the risk assessment and will be expected to preserve the confidentiality of the issue until the public announcement is made. This process will only be used where a proper balance of stakeholders (eg industry and consumers) can be found and where there is felt to be a need for such advice.

Keeping in touch with stakeholders

9. We propose to implement the monthly proactive update on EFSA's advices and our e-mail notification of additions to the website from March 2004.

10. We propose to hold an open meeting of stakeholders in 2004 to discuss EFSA's performance to date and future plans. We will provide financial assistance to allow consumer representatives to attend. We will also ask the participants to consider whether they would prefer to continue with such a procedure or adopt a more formalised one with the inevitable result of constraining attendance.

Review

11. As set out in the previous paper, it is intended to invite the Management Board to review progress on the new arrangements in early 2005.

Recommendation

The Management Board is invited to decide that :

(1) the proposals set out in Paper MB 03.12.2003-8, as amplified above, should be implemented and renewed by the Board in early 2005.