

Parma,

To: **EFSA Executive Director**

Subject: **Self-tasking Mandate proposed to EFSA by the Scientific Committee for a Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks**

Dear Ms. Geslain-Lanéelle,

The mission and tasks of EFSA include the responsibility to set up a capacity for identifying emerging risks. In 2011, a Working Group (WG) established to support EFSA in the further development of a transparent framework for emerging risk identification (ERI), assessed the performance of the current procedure and provided recommendations for improvement. That WG recognised that ERI requires a high level of expertise due to important data gaps and uncertainties in the evaluation process, as well as knowledge of other ongoing EFSA's activities. It has been recommended establishing a multidisciplinary WG of experts from the EFSA Scientific Committee and Panels to provide scientific support to EFSA throughout the entire ERI process.

Therefore, it is requested that EMRISK initiates with the collaboration of SCOM Unit a standing WG of the Scientific Committee on Emerging Risks. The outcomes of this WG will be regularly presented to the Scientific Committee for endorsement and recommendations submitted to the Mandate Review Committee for further actions, if any. Close collaboration with EFSA's Scientific Panels should be ensured. This collaboration should be initiated as soon as possible, and should be an ongoing activity to be reviewed after the first 18 months.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee,

Professor Vittorio Silano
Chair of the Scientific Committee