

Parma, 17/06/2016

Note on the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks of the Scientific Committee (2015-2018)

The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks. The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks Unit is also requested to organise the meetings of the Standing Working Group and assist in the preparation of the relevant EFSA scientific outputs in line with the tasks delegated to the Standing Working Group.

Background:

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent and transparent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain. On request from the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States or on its own initiative¹, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Committee, which develops harmonised risk assessment methodologies on scientific matters of a horizontal nature in the fields within EFSA's remit, it provides general co-ordination and strategic scientific advice to EFSA's management, confirmed during its 77th Plenary Meeting the need to update the terms of reference of the Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks.

Terms of reference:

The objectives of the Standing Working Group on Emerging risks are to ensure dissemination of information and coordination between panels and support the generation of new knowledge and the fostering of innovation and technologies as well as the usefulness of data collection and generation in the area of emerging risks. In order to fulfil its objectives, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the remit of emerging risks identification in food and feed and the development of methodologies in the area of emerging risks identification.

Members:

During the 77th Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Committee the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Emerging Risks. The decision on the composition of the Standing Working Group was made by the Chair of the Standing Working Group upon proposal of the respective EFSA Head of Unit. The composition of the Standing Working Group on Emerging risks is available on the EFSA website².

Scope in EFSA's work and outsourcing programme:

The Standing Working Group will assess the available and relevant scientific information and data provided to EFSA by Member States and stakeholders, those submitted through the applicants' dossiers (when applicable), those collected through public calls for data, as well as those collected by EFSA itself. As appropriate, EFSA may outsource the collection, collation or analysis of scientific information, through its grant and procurement schemes, in order to support the scientific assessment of the Standing Working Group.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ, L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1-24).

² <https://ess.efsa.europa.eu/doi/doiweb/doisearch>

Timelines:

Provided the Standing Working Group on Emerging risks is not closed earlier, as a result of a period of inactivity, then its mandate will terminate 3 months after the inaugural meeting of the subsequent Scientific Committee (2018-2021).

Expected deliverables:

Draft EFSA scientific output(s), which will be submitted for consideration and possible endorsement by the Scientific Committee.

[SIGNED]

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