

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT

Parma, 12 October 2015

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

The Scientific Committee and Emerging Risks (SCER) Unit is requested to manage the administrative and scientific activities of the Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity. 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 initiative<sup>1</sup>, EFSA provides scientific opinions on issues falling under its remit.

The Scientific Committee, which deals with questions on in the area of new and harmonised approaches for risk assessment of food and feed, confirmed during its 75<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting the need of a Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity.

## **Terms of reference:**

The objectives of the Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity are to:

- Provide support to the different EFSA Units/Panels in the evaluation of genotoxicity data sets/scientific literature for assessments where different views have been expressed in the respective Panels or within the same Panel,
- Provide advice on the interpretation of equivocal genotoxicity test results,
- Provide advice on the interpretation of the genotoxicity data e.g. in the light of the genotoxicity testing strategy opinion (EFSA, 2011<sup>3</sup>).
- If deemed necessary, to revise the SC guidance on genotoxicity testing strategies (EFSA Journal 2011).

In order to fulfil its objectives, the above-mentioned Standing Working Group shall consist of members with expertise in the following scientific areas: genotoxicity/mutagenicity data interpretation, carcinogenicity data interpretation. Ideally, EFSA panels dealing with chemical risk assessments should be represented in the SWG. In any case, a broad representation of EFSA panels will be reflected in the composition of the SWG.

## **Members:**

During the 76<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Scientific Committee the Chair appointed (in consultation with EFSA) the Chair of the Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity. 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 Genotoxicity is available on the EFSA website<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

**Timelines:**

Provided the Standing Working Group on Genotoxicity 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:**

The standing WG on genotoxicity will provide support in form of advice to the requesting panel/unit, that will be considered by the requested Panel(s) in the finalisation of the output(s).

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