



# Overall Objective of the Scientific Colloquium

**Maged Younes**

Chair of EFSA Scientific Committee  
Working Group RBA Guidance Update

Trusted science for safe food

- **Background: Request** for scientific advice from the European Commission together with risk managers of the EC and EU Member States
- Translating risk management questions into a **workplan** for EFSA how to address the questions posed by the risk managers
- Developing a multi-annual programme 2021-2025 for data collection, **updating EFSA's risk-benefit assessment methodology** for application to nutrients and contaminants in fish
- **Overall objectives** of this scientific colloquium

- Consumer expectations to see the full picture: Risk from the presence of certain chemicals in food vs. its nutritional benefits
- Risk manager' needs: Obtain all the necessary information to take appropriate, scientifically informed and balanced decisions
- Enabling weighing of the evidence on risks and benefits in a meaningful manner

- To provide a risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption in relation to the presence of dioxins (PCDD/Fs) and dioxin-like PCBs, taking into account the estimated exposure to PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs in relation with the established Tolerable Weekly Intake (TWI) of 2 pg TEQ/kg bw/week.
- In addition, to assess the influence of the presence of other contaminants in fish such as methylmercury, brominated flame retardants and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on the outcome of the risk-benefit assessment has to be provided.

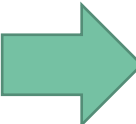
## NUTRIENTS

Long Chain Poly-Unsaturated Fatty Acids  
Vitamins (e.g. Vitamin D)  
Minerals (e.g. calcium, iodine, selenium, zinc)  
.....

## CONTAMINANTS

Dioxins (PCDDs, PCDFs and dioxin-like PCBs)  
Methylmercury  
Brominated flame retardants  
PerFluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS)  
.....

(Groups of) substances with different health (positive/negative) effects, HBGVs and DRVs for different endpoints, differences in levels in various types of fish, with fish not always major source of dietary exposure

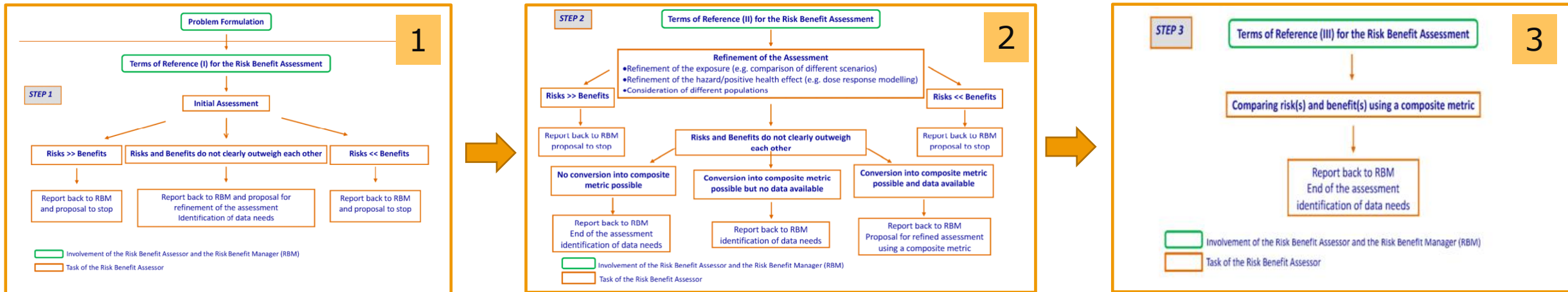
- EC and Member States need EFSA's advice that would support them in defining **dietary advice on consumption of fish**
  - Several Member States considered an approach to estimate **% of HBGVs** and **% of DRVs** as not sufficient
  - Member States need **scientifically-based advice** on **how to weigh risks and benefits of combined exposure** to contaminants and nutrients
- 
  - EFSA noted it needs an **update of the existing RBA guidance** to help risk managers to define (national) dietary advice

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

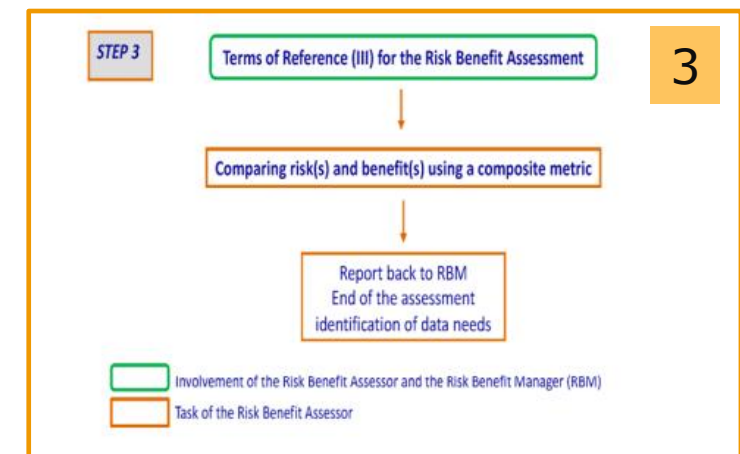
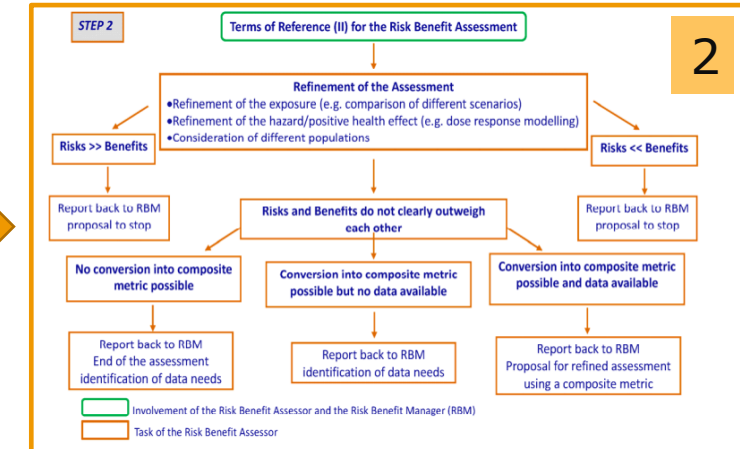
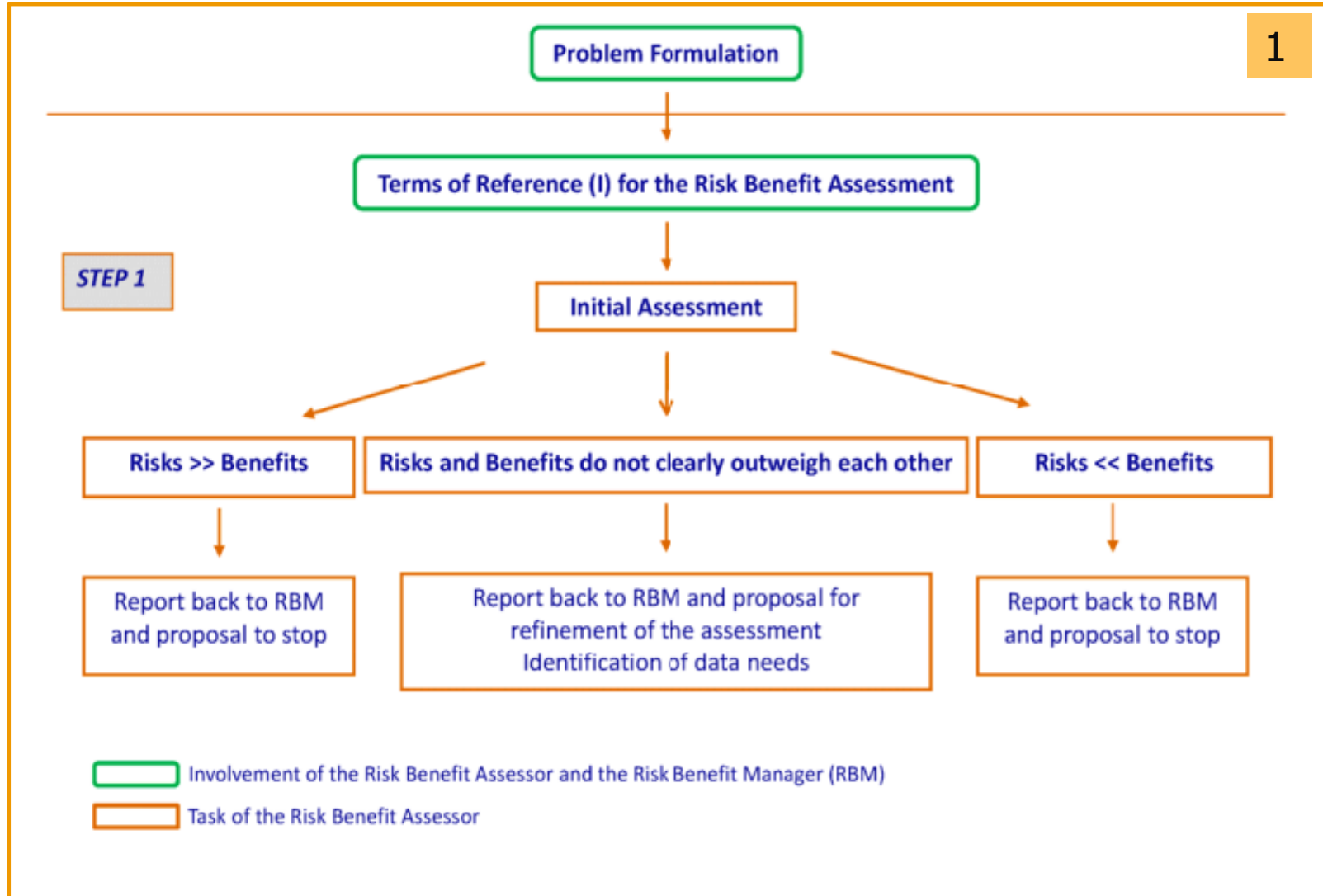
### Guidance on human health risk-benefit assessment of foods<sup>1</sup>

EFSA Scientific Committee<sup>2, 3</sup>

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy



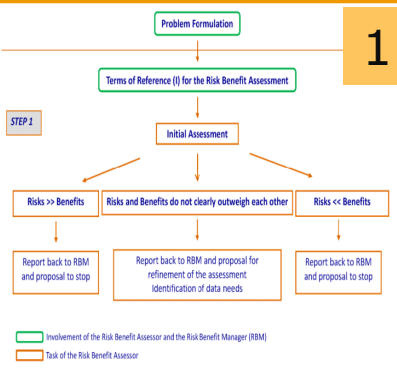
# RBA GUIDANCE OF SC (2010)



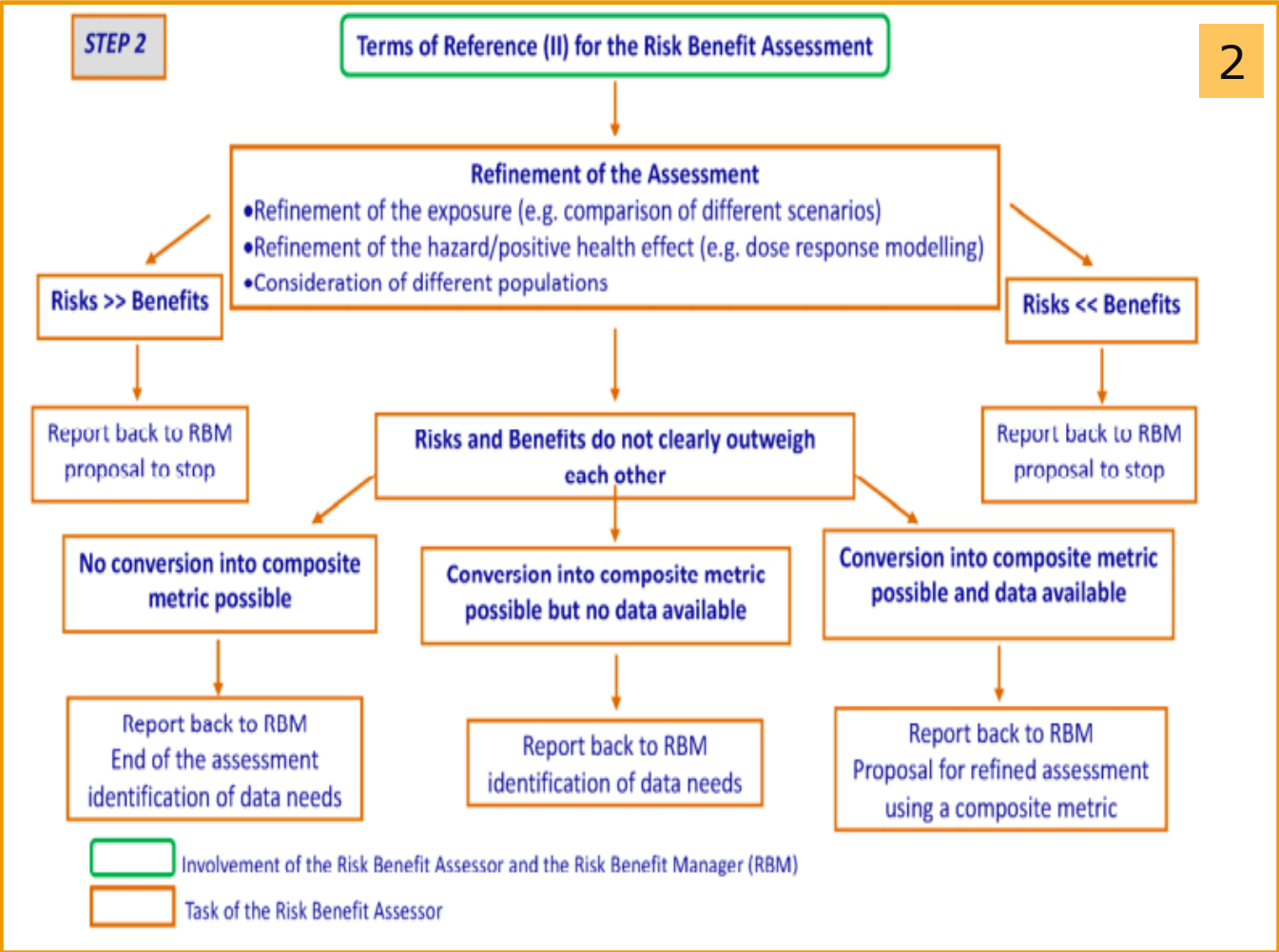


# RBA GUIDANCE OF SC (2010)

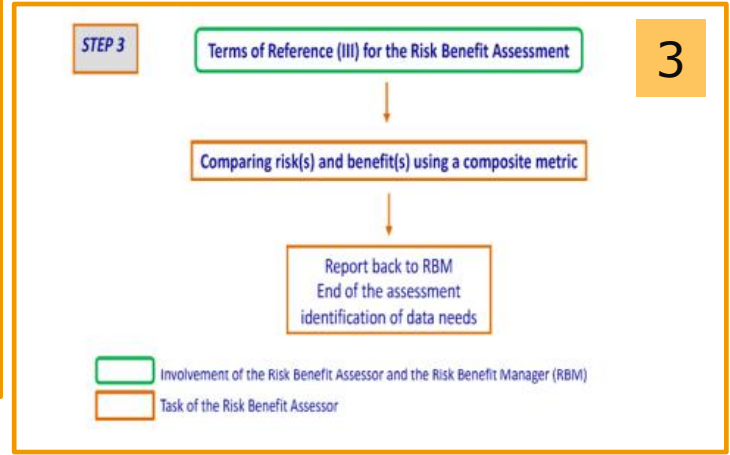
1



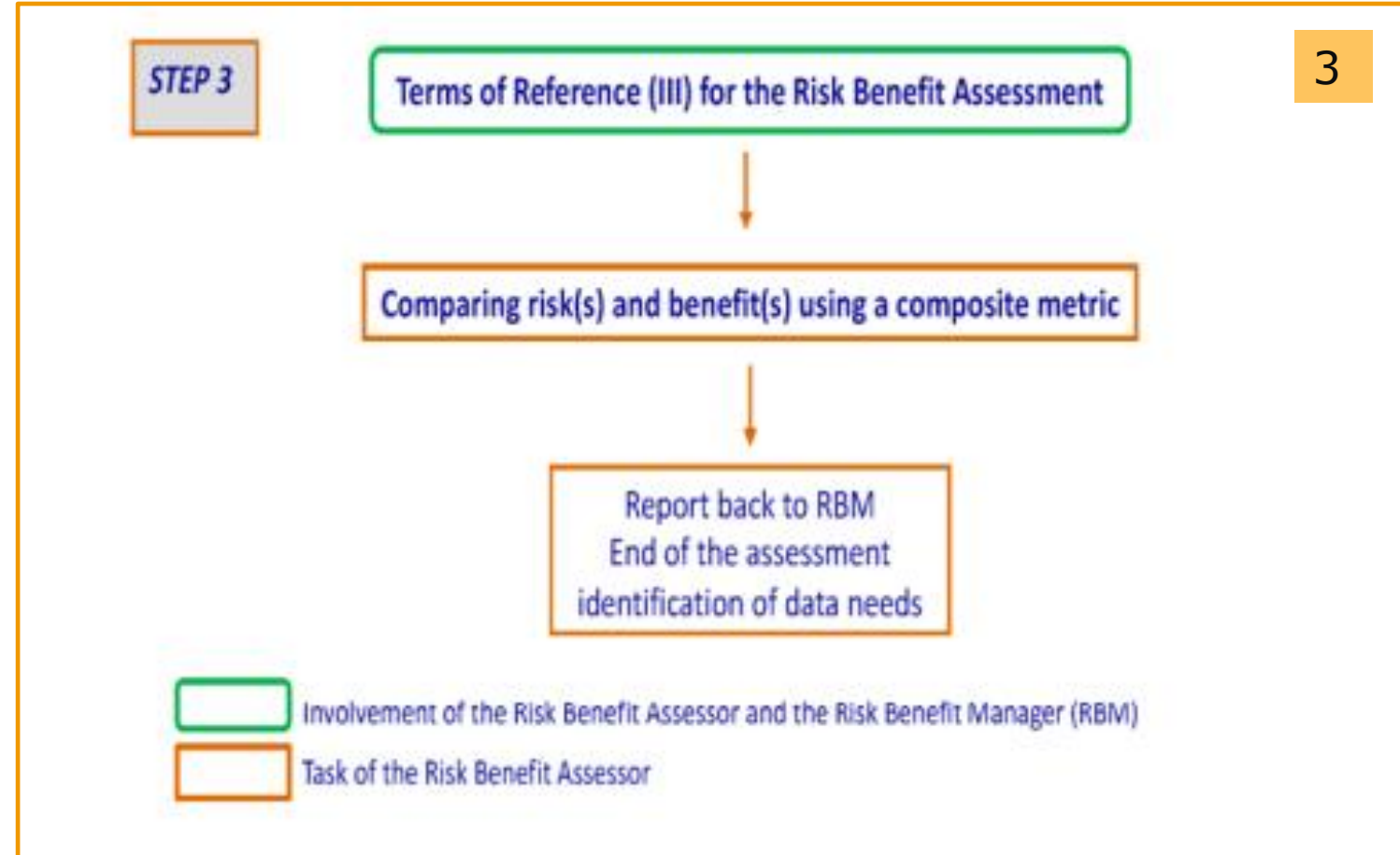
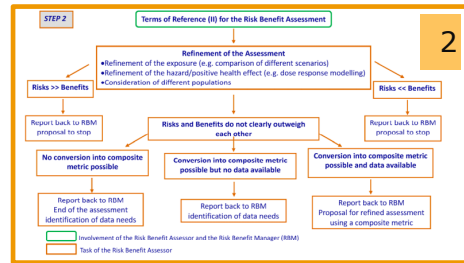
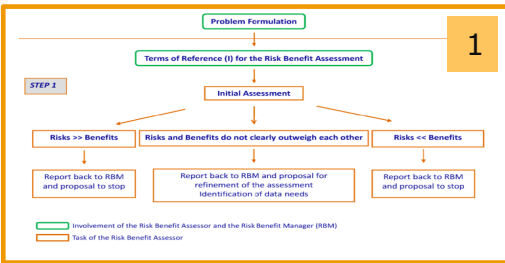
2



3



# RBA GUIDANCE OF SC (2010)



- Possible outcome of applying EFSA's 2010 guidance\*
  - When would fish consumption exceed HBGV for substance X
  - How much fish should be consumed to meet DRV for nutrient Y
  - Comparing risks and benefits using a composite metric (e.g. DALYs)
- Application of the 2010 Guidance will not provide:
  - Comprehensive assessment putting risks and benefits in **overall context**
  - Assessments translating fish consumption into **overall health outcomes**
  - **Characterising risks and benefits** by fish species, by types of fish (e.g. wild vs farmed), by population subgroup (for targeted dietary advice and consumption warnings)

\*EFSA Scientific Committee statement on risks and benefits of fish consumption in relation to methylmercury (2015): how many servings of fish/seafood per week would population groups need to reach the TWI for methylmercury and the dietary reference value (DRV) for LCPUFAs. See: <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2015.3982>

- Creating a WG of the Scientific Committee (Nov 21)
- Agreement of Scientific Committee on Terms of Reference (Nov 21)
- Scientific Colloquium to collect ideas, information needs and to assess current state of knowledge (Feb 22)
- Draft guidance for public consultation (April 23)
- International workshop to discuss draft guidance (June 23)
- Adoption of final draft guidance by Scientific Committee (Sep 23)
- Publication of updated guidance (Nov 23)

- Contribute to the design of the Agenda of a Scientific Colloquium to take place in February 2022 to collect input from the broader scientific community and Member States on how an updated EFSA RBA Guidance would serve their needs.
- Utilize the input from the Scientific Colloquium to draft an update of the existing EFSA Guidance on RBA.
- Include expertise in Toxicology, Epidemiology, Nutrition, RBA, Social science, and Communications
- Receive input from related EFSA Scientific Units and Panels, including the Communications unit and the Engagement and Cooperation unit.

- To update the 2010 Guidance on the human health risk-benefit assessment of foods that result in outputs serving the needs of Member States that issue advice for food consumption at national level.
- Update additional aspects of the Guidance as needed, consistent with the current state of the art in risk and benefit assessments and relevant EFSA outputs

- To collect your views on current needs and possible approaches for this kind of RBA to serve as input for the Scientific Committee to consider during the update of its guidance document.
- Specifically, to receive your input on advances in RBA methodology, RBA needs, and experience from its application.
- The colloquium is taking place online with presentations by internationally renowned keynote speakers and with live streaming of plenary sessions.

## Opening session

- Understanding needs of risk managers
- Current approaches to RBA
- Risk-Benefit assessment of breastfeeding
- Nutritional health benefits of food consumption
- Influence of trust and perception of risks and benefits of food consumption

## Break-out sessions

- **NEEDS** - a RBA that would better support developing dietary advice?
- **METHODS** - Weighing health risks and health benefits of combined dietary exposure to contaminants and nutrients
- **DATA** - Collection of data and other information for a RBA

## Concluding session

- **Possible directions** to take for the EFSA Scientific Committee WG
- **Next steps:**
  - event report (2022)
  - RBA workshop on draft guidance (2023)





*Thank you very much for your attention*





## Subscribe to

[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/newsletters)  
[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/rss](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/rss)



## Engage with careers

[www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/careers](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/engage/careers)



## Follow us on Twitter

@efsa\_eu  
@plants\_efsa  
@methods\_efsa